

persons who may desire to enter professions or who may wish certificates of having completed courses of study in any school;

(d) For a teachers' reading course and teachers' institutes and conventions;

2. To authorize text and reference books for the use of the pupils and teachers in all schools hereinbefore mentioned as well as such maps, globes, charts and other apparatus or equipment as may be required or giving proper instruction in such schools;

3. To prepare a list of books suitable for school libraries and to make regulations for the management of such libraries;

4. To make due provision for the training of teachers.

I ask, could the English language more clearly define what the rights of the new provinces shall be? I therefore say it is talking nonsense, it is stultifying one's intelligence, to try to make the people of this country believe that the legislatures of the new provinces shall not have the exclusive control and management of the educational systems of those provinces. I would also refer to section 41 of the same ordinance, around which there seems to be a certain amount of discussion. That section says:

The minority of the ratepayers in any district whether Protestant or Roman Catholic may establish a separate school therein; and in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate school shall be liable only to assessments of such rates as they impose upon themselves in respect thereof.

I claim that under that clause the parliament of Canada is not in any sense of the term forcing separate schools on the people of the Northwest Territories. It is leaving the people in each separate district free to say for themselves whether or not they shall have Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools. The parliament of Canada is not saying to the people of the Northwest Territories: You must have separate schools. It is leaving to the people themselves in the particular school district to say whether or not they shall have separate schools. And moreover, even if the minority, Protestant or Roman Catholic, do establish separate schools, we find that these schools again under section 45 are clearly brought under the control of the governments of the new provinces. We find that section 45 says:

After the establishment of a separate school district under the provisions of this ordinance such separate school district and the board thereof shall possess and exercise all rights, powers, privileges and be subject to the same liabilities and method of government as is herein provided in respect of public school districts.

2. Any person who is legally assessed or assessable for a public school shall not be liable to assessment for any separate school established therein.

That is to say, under that clause the new provinces have the same control over these

separate schools as they would have over a public school. I therefore desire to make it perfectly clear that so far as the new provinces of the Northwest are concerned, in matters of secular education, they will have exclusive power and full control, and that these schools from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. are national schools, non-sectarian schools, schools under the control and jurisdiction of these provinces. I might further point out in regard to teaching of religion in these schools that clause 137 of these same ordinances restricts the teaching of religion as follows:

No religious instruction except as hereinafter provided shall be permitted in the school until one-half hour previous to its closing in the afternoon, after which time any such instruction permitted or desired by the board may be given.

Here again I say that the parliament of Canada are not forcing upon the new provinces the necessity and the obligation to teach religion in their schools. They may teach religion or they may not as the people in the particular district may see fit. It is for the people themselves, the people immediately concerned, the people whose rights according to hon. gentlemen opposite will be trampled to dust, to say whether or not they shall have religious teaching in the schools. The school trustees will decide whether Protestant or Roman Catholic religious teaching shall be given. Again under section 138 it is enacted:

Any child shall have the privilege of leaving the school room at the time at which religious instruction is commenced as provided for in the next preceding section, or of remaining without taking part in any religious instruction that may be given if the parents or guardians so desire.

Here again in this clause power and authority is given to any child that may attend any of these separate schools, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic to withdraw from school during the time of religious instruction; he is not bound to attend in school during the last half hour of the day, and to accept the teaching of a religious faith with which his parents do not agree. So far as secular education is concerned that child who does not wish religious instruction has exactly the same teaching and the same privileges as any other child in these new Territories. There is no handicap upon such child. The North-west ordinances in order to make it more clear that such a child shall not be prejudiced provides under section 139, which will also apply to the new provinces:

No teacher, school trustee or inspector shall in any way attempt to deprive such a child of any advantage that it might derive from the ordinary education given in such school, and any such action on the part of any school trustee, inspector or teacher shall be held to be a disqualification for and voidance of the office held by him.