

the Mackenzie administration, a Liberal administration, was consolidated and re-enacted, as the Minister of Inland Revenue (Hon. Mr. Brodeur) read this afternoon, in 1880 under Sir John Macdonald's government. For thirty years, this legislation has been enjoyed by these people. It was consolidated again and went into effect in 1902, three years ago. This is the law which was embodied in the Bill which is now before the House and which if this Bill passes will secure to the minorities in those provinces the rights that are given to them in the legislation contained in the laws which the assembly of those Territories enacted. Let us stop for a moment or two, to consider this question of separate schools. In the School Act, which is the first Act in that book, there are 180 sections and five sections out of that 180 deal with this question of separate schools—five and five only. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) in his argument this afternoon based his objection wholly on the fact that he objects to church schools, or as he calls them, denominational schools under the direction and control of the church and he pictured to us a condition of things—

Mr. SPROULE. I did not base my argument on any such contention. I based my argument upon the rights of the provinces to deal with education and said that I had no concern with what they did, that I would give them whatever kind of schools they liked.

Mr. PATERSON. Quite so. And I do not wish to misrepresent the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule), but when he was drawn out by a direct question from this side of the House he had to admit that the schools provided for in these Acts are not church schools. But why did he picture to us all the evils that had resulted from church schools in other countries and in other provinces? Why was it that he complained of what he was pleased to call separate schools that were church schools in other provinces when we were not discussing the system of separate schools in other provinces, but were debating the condition of the schools in the Territories which are about to become provinces? That is the question.

I think it would be perhaps worth while that I should hurriedly give to the House a portion of the law, particularly the sections of the Bill which the Bill now before us will continue as the law of the Territories. First as to the constitution of the Department of Education. Let there be no clouding of this question. The Territories did not enact church schools; they enacted state schools, national schools in every sense of the word.

There shall be a department of the public service of the Territories called the Department of Education.

Mr. PATERSON.

ment of Education over which the member of the Executive Council appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, under the seal of the Territories to discharge the functions of the Commissioner of Education for the time being shall preside.

The department shall have the control and management of all kindergarten schools, public and separate schools, normal schools, teachers' institutes and the education of deaf, deaf mute and blind persons.

A minister, one of the ministers of the government shall have control of that and that minister or commissioner as he is called, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, shall have power to make regulations of the department.

The commissioner, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, shall have power:

1. To make regulations of the department—

(a) For the classification, organization, government, examination and inspection of all schools hereinbefore mentioned;

(b) For the construction, furnishing and care of school buildings and the arrangement of school premises;

(c) For the examination, licensing and grading of teachers and for the examination of 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 for 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.

The whole control of all these subjects is under the direction of a responsible minister of the Crown. Gentlemen who have these ordinances in their hands, on reading them will, I have no doubt, come to the conclusion that I have myself come to, that these are national schools in every sense of the word. I have said that there is provision for schools for the minority in accordance with the rights which they have enjoyed for 30 years, the rights given them by this very Dominion parliament under a Liberal government. What are they? They are set forth in sections 41 to 45. Pardon me, Mr. Speaker, if I read them for I think they are worth reading. Again I would remark that there are only five out of 180 sections that deal with this subject.

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.