

dress in respect to these ordinances of 1892, the intention of which was, as a matter of fact, to abolish separate schools in the Northwest Territories. If it were not so, it was because, as has been said by the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) they were not the law. The law was still in force. The Act of 1875 was not repealed, but for all practical purposes separate schools no longer existed in the Northwest Territories. These petitions, which, I suppose, are still in the office of the Privy Council or in the Department of Justice, enumerated the complaints of those who were suffering in the Northwest, and Monseigneur Taché adds his voice to the prayers of the petitioners. He says:

I add my humble prayer and I ask that the grievance which is complained of be remedied immediately. The intention to deprive Catholics of their rights in the matter of education and to abolish the use of the French language, especially in the schools, is so manifest that unless remedial measures are taken immediately an injustice will be consummated. The Governor General in Council cannot allow such a violation as this of the law under the authority of which the government of the Northwest Territories is carried on.

He must there refer to the law of 1875:

I have every confidence that the ordinances and the regulations of which we complain will be disallowed, and your petitioners will ever pray.

This is signed Alexandre, Archbishop of St. Boniface.

Mr. BRODEUR. What is the date?

Mr. BERGERON. The date of the pamphlet is 1894 and the letter is dated the 4th of January, 1894. Then, the Archbishop goes on in his memoir to say:

I was somewhat convinced that the honourable the Privy Council could not help seeing the dangers of those ordinances, but I thought there was no use going any farther in attempting to assist council by pointing out the dangers which were threatening. The honourable the committee is right in saying that appeals to the Governor in Council under the British North America Act in the matter of education from the provinces of Canada have not been established for the Territories. Such an appeal does not exist for the Territories.

Then he repeats the answer which was given to him by the then Minister of Justice, or at least by the Privy Council, and he says:

Of course, if it is the committee's desire to grant an alternative answer to the prayer of the petitioners, there is only one remedy which remains. The veto is the only remedy which can be applied in response to the prayer of the petitioners who have submitted their case to the goodwill of the government. The honourable the committee says that it has not the right to do justice to the demand. In the face of that refusal, in one case because there is no power and the other because there is no

willingness to apply that remedy, the committee does not find itself in a favourable position.

Then the Archbishop cites the statute of the Northwest Territories of which the petitioners availed themselves as a proof that the Roman Catholics in the Northwest Territories have a right to their separate schools, and he says that it is to be regretted that such a right should have been abolished by the ordinances of 1892. I will now read for the benefit of my hon. friend the Minister of Justice an extract from the report of the hon. the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on February 5, 1894. I shall only read that part of it which has to do with what I have already read. This is in answer to those who say to us: Why did your friends not disallow those ordinances? Why did your friends not render justice? Your premier was a Roman Catholic; why did he not act? This is the answer:

While an appeal in the sense of the provisions of the British North America Act, referring to appeals to the Governor in Council, on matters affecting education in the province of Canada, is not established as regards the Territories, the committee of the Privy Council feel confident that any suggestion having your Excellency's authority would be given all proper consideration by the assembly and by the council, and the committee consider themselves justified in entertaining this confidence, more especially as in the same enactment as that under which the Northwest Assembly is organized and exercised its functions (the Northwest Territories Act, section 14) the following provision is made.

Then it recites the clause which I have read a few moments ago. There is no question that the Privy Council made a remonstrance against those ordinances to the council of the Northwest Territories. There is no question that a demand was made not to put in force those ordinances of 1892, the effect of which, as a matter of fact, was to abolish separate schools in the Northwest Territories. What was the answer? Nothing was done.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Trust the west.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is right. It is a matter for reflection. Those gentlemen who were at the head of affairs in the Territories listened to all these prayers, they knew that these petitioners were right; still they did nothing. Why? Because the majority, I imagine, were opposed to a change. We might as well accept the truth of the doctrine that under a constitutional government it is the majority that rules. That is why, I think, it is very dangerous to put on the statutes of Canada laws which purely and simply will be footballs later on for the fanatics in politics or anywhere else.

Mr. BRODEUR. Before my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) leaves that subject, I understood him to say a few moments ago that