

companies they will get the railways built just as well and just as quickly and just as nearly where they want them as if they were giving guarantees or cash bonuses to the railway companies. So, these provinces are starting out with everything in their favour, and here I wish to say that the government as conducted in the Northwest Territories for many years past by Mr. Haultain has been in every respect a good and satisfactory government for the Northwest Territories. And I have no doubt that whoever may be called upon to carry on the government in the new provinces will carry it on in the same manner; but, not owning their own lands, they will not have the same temptation, and they will not have these magnates after them every day trying to get bonuses and guarantees as would be the case if the provinces were the owners of the public lands. I notice now that hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House are very anxious to hand over the lands to the governments of the new provinces. But what has been the record of these hon. gentlemen? When the province of Manitoba asked for its own lands, these gentlemen refused. If they were so anxious to conserve the lands of the Northwest Territories for the people of these Territories, why did they give away to railroads millions and millions of acres of those lands? I do not say so much about the land grant given to the Canadian Pacific Railway, for in those days it was difficult to get a road built through that part of the country, because we did not know it as well as we do now. But, since then, millions of acres of lands in the Northwest have been given away as bonuses for the building of railways in Manitoba. If hon. gentlemen on the other side are so anxious as they appear to be to conserve the lands of the Northwest Territories for the people of those Territories, why did they act in that manner? It comes with a bad grace from hon. gentlemen opposite to talk of handing over the lands to the people of the Northwest when they themselves gave away millions of acres of the choicest of our lands to railway companies. We in the Northwest Territories, in addition, must pay our share of the cash bounties given to railways in every part of the country.

Now, I said when I started that I would be only a short time, and I am going to try and keep my word. I wish now to deal very briefly with the school question. As I said before, I think this question has been given a great deal too much prominence. And I want to say that I believe the reason why we have an agitation of any kind is absolutely from the lack of knowledge on the part of the people in the east of the class of schools which we have in the Northwest Territories.

I believe if every Protestant clergyman in Canada and every newspaper editor knew the class of schools we have to-day in the

Northwest Territories, this agitation would cease. We have heard this question discussed week in and week out, I have listened to it hour after hour, and it has all been about separate schools. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am aware that among Protestants we have been accustomed for the past fifteen or twenty years to think of a separate school as something very bad. But whatever the separate schools may be in Ontario, or may have been in the province of Manitoba, or in the Northwest Territories in former days, we are not dealing with that class of schools at the present time. Let us deal with separate schools such as they exist in the Northwest Territories at the present day, and I am satisfied that if their true character were known this agitation would drop at once. But I do not think that is the object of a good many, it is not the object of some hon. members on the other side of this House, their object is to keep up the agitation in order to make some political capital out of it. As one hon. gentleman opposite said to me the other day: You fellows came in on this question before, and we are coming in on it now. And judging by the actions of hon. gentlemen opposite, it looks very much as if he were right.

Mr. SPROULE. If that logic is correct, the government is going to burst up.

Mr. TURRIFF. That is what one of the hon. gentleman's own supporters said.

Mr. SPROULE. And the hon. gentleman says it looks as if he were right.

Mr. TURRIFF. I said it looked as if the hon. member for East Grey and his friends were keeping up the agitation for that purpose—that is what I meant to say.

Mr. SPROULE. I desire to tell the hon. gentleman that there is not one word of truth in that. The hon. member for East Grey stood exactly for the same principle in 1896, and fought in company with gentlemen who occupy the Treasury benches to-day for the same principle, and he is standing by it still.

Mr. TURRIFF. I know this, that the hon. member for East Grey has gone out of his way to agitate the people in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SPROULE. That is not so.

Mr. TURRIFF. I know he has had printed petition forms sent out to the Northwest Territories to be signed and sent back to him, in opposition to separate schools.

Mr. SPROULE. No, not at all.

Mr. TURRIFF. Well, he mentioned separate schools in those petitions.

Mr. SPROULE. Not a word. Allow me to correct the hon. gentleman, there is not a word in them about separate schools.

Mr. TURRIFF. Well, that is exactly what I object to, that the hon. gentlemen