

of the Northwest Territories should receive from the parliament of Canada power to regulate, after the next general election of the assembly, the proceedings of the assembly and the manner of recording and publishing such proceedings.

This was on February 21st, 1890.

Mr. MONK. The amendment which I presented is copied from that.

Mr. LEMIEUX. This is the amendment of Sir John Thompson. It was carried by a vote of 149 against 50. I see the name of my hon. friend the member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) who voted yea. That is to say he voted that,

This House deems it expedient and proper, and not inconsistent with these covenants, that the legislative assembly of the Northwest Territories should receive from the parliament of Canada power to regulate, after the next general election of the assembly, the proceedings of the assembly and the manner of recording and publishing such proceedings.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend might have read the other vote where I voted the other way. It will be easier for me to explain afterwards.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend voted with all the French Canadian members and a few of the English Canadian members of the House of Commons in favour of the amendment which I have read, and which was introduced by Mr. Beausoleil. So did the then leader of the opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But the amendment which was carried by the House was that of Sir John Thompson which affirmed two principles, first that Mr. McCarthy was wrong in inaugurating a campaign to abolish the French language in the province of Quebec and in the parliament of the Dominion, and second, that the legislature of the Northwest Territories should be authorized by this parliament to regulate its proceedings in whatever language it chose to have after the next general elections.

Mr. BERGERON. How did the right hon. gentleman vote on that clause?

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend has the votes and proceedings.

Mr. BERGERON. I had them before you mentioned my name.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The hon. gentleman voted. I told him I saw his name amongst the yeas. He voted to give the legislative assembly of the Northwest Territories the right to abolish the French language. Now, Sir, what did happen? The year after, general elections were held in the Northwest Territories, and as a result the French language was abolished on a motion made by Mr. Haultain. I may say that I have perused and read carefully the whole debate of 1890 on this question of the dual language in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. LEMIEUX.

I may say to my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) that if he has read it carefully as I am sure he has, he will have observed that neither Mr. Blake nor Mr. Mills nor Sir John Macdonald, nor any of those high constitutional authorities living at the time claimed that prior to the annexation of the Northwest Territories to Canada there had been a covenant between this government or the imperial government and the people inhabiting these Territories that the French language should be official.

Mr. MONK. Is that the opinion of my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux)?

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend has only to read the list of rights. Where does he find in any treaty that the people of the Northwest Territories were guaranteed the use of the French language except in the statute passed in 1877? But let me point out to my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), who is watching the issue of this debate so carefully in order to start an agitation in the province of Quebec, that the parliament of Canada, under the inspiration of the late Sir John Thompson, gave the legislature of the Northwest Territories the right to abolish the use of the French language.

Mr. MONK. Is not that proposition a very general one? Is that the way my hon. friend understands the resolution adopted in 1890 on the Bill to abolish the French language?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Let me read the resolution to my hon. friend:

That at the same time this House deems it expedient and proper and not inconsistent with those covenants that the legislative assembly of the Northwest Territories should receive from the parliament of Canada power to regulate, after the next general election of the assembly, the proceedings of the assembly and the manner of recording and publishing such proceedings.

Mr. BERGERON. How would you have voted on that?

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend should not ask me how I would have voted in 1890. I was not then a member of parliament. Is my hon. friend ashamed of the vote he gave at that time?

Mr. BERGERON. Is it not a question of principle, and when we give a population free institutions, we could not prevent their legislature from having that right. I was very much disappointed at the way the legislature abused the right we gave them. But at that time we could not deprive them of that right, and that is why we then voted as we did in company with the many of our hon. friend's opponents.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yesterday, when I called to my hon. friend's attention the attitude he took and the vote he gave after the