

introduced, Mr. Ewan. In one of his letters he stated :

Their attitude towards the school question is similar. Without exception all those I have spoken to have no apprehensions with regard to that feature of the settlement. They know by experience the system they have got. They are perfectly satisfied with it, and if its continuance is a part of the settlement there will be no objection from the people of the Territories. The Catholic portion of the population have at times exhibited dissatisfaction, but it has never been very serious, and the general expression is that if the present system is continued, practically everybody will be satisfied.

Mr. SPROULE. I would ask the hon. gentleman if he read the last letter in the series, the one written from Moosejaw? In summing up the situation he declared emphatically that the sentiment of the people was against it. I think that was written by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. SCOTT. I have a large number of friends in Moosejaw, and I have heard from numbers of them since the modifications were made to these Bills, and I think I may say that they are quite satisfied with the modified Bill. Moosejaw is in my own constituency. Now take the expression of opinion at Regina, my own town. When the Bills were first introduced and it was thought that the school clause would continue the present situation, the Winnipeg 'Free Press' the next morning contained the following despatch from Regina :

Now that the people of Regina have had an opportunity of studying full details of the autonomy measures, the approval is even more pronounced than was expressed over the forecasts. The final terms are accepted on all hands as not only satisfactory but generous, in fact one and all regard the terms as much more favourable than could reasonably have been expected. So far your correspondent has not heard one word expressed that was not in praise of the measures submitted to parliament by Sir Wilfrid Laurier yesterday.

In last evening's Toronto 'Globe' there was an account of a protesting meeting in Toronto.

Rev. Dr. Chown said he was in Regina when the news of the details of the Autonomy Bills arrived. Every detail of these Bills was talked about except the school clauses, and the same was the case in other parts of the west.

In Lethbridge there is a Conservative paper called the 'News,' which stated on March 16 :

The separate school question in respect to the new Northwest provinces continues to exercise politicians in the east, and to read some of the articles published, one would be led to conceive the idea that people in the west were violently opposed to a continuation of the system that has been in existence since the opening up of the country, which, in fact, has given such general satisfaction that but few people have ever been induced to inquire into the basis on which separate schools in the west

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were founded. These people in the east who are doing their best to stir up religious strife are no friends of the west, which is wide enough in area, aspirations and religious toleration, to permit a system of schools which are a concession to religious views without being a detriment to the educational standard adopted for the country and inflicting no injustice on any one in the community.

It concludes with the statement :

It is stated that the Northwest members will give unanimous support to a clause continuing the present privileges, but no more, and in taking this stand we believe they are fairly representing the feelings of the people as a whole.

I have another expression of opinion from the Calgary 'Herald,' with particular reference to a gentleman in Toronto who is so much exercised on this question—the Calgary 'Herald' is a Conservative journal :

A few journalistic firebrands in Ontario are as busy these days as hens in the month of April. The basis of their activity is to be found in a pathetic anxiety for the educational fate of the new northwestern provinces. We have not asked them to be anxious, we are not in fear ourselves, and yet they worry dreadfully lest his Holiness whose home is on the banks of the Tiber jollies or jockies or lobbies us into something really very awful.

One of the most distracted of these gentlemen is J. S. Willison, who moulds public opinion down east through the medium of the Toronto 'News.' Prior to January 25 last, he was engaged in a long and most strenuous effort to oust Mr. Ross & Co., and with the incidental assistance of tens upon tens of thousands of intelligent voters he won a victory over his foes somewhat in the style in which Bill Adams put Napoleon to flight at Waterloo. The 'News' had then a just and sensible cause to advocate and success is as easy under such circumstances as taking candy from a child.

Exhilarated by his recent victory Mr. Willison has again removed his coat and has constituted himself the champion of a cause which affects people two thousand miles from the sanctum where he wields his anti-papal pen. He is determined that come what may Willison and not the Pope is to be the educational dictator of the western provinces. The hierarchy are to be made to run away back and sit down.

Unasked advice is seldom enjoyed. Newspaper blatherskites two thousand miles away should be heavily discounted. There is no room for any religious clash out here. We have more important duties to perform.

That is from the chief Conservative paper in the Territories. Then a letter from Medicine Hat :

All are pretty well satisfied with the school law in the Territories, and that is what is going to be continued as I understand it.

A gentleman in Regina writing on February 27 :

As to the Autonomy Bill, the satisfaction is very great, the dissatisfaction not visible to the naked eye.

Another gentleman from Regina with regard to the schools :