

on what has been said by hon. gentlemen on the other side, by the right hon. Prime Minister, by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and others who have very frankly stated the position of affairs in that regard. The delegate came to this country, as the hon. member for Labelle has stated, because there was a certain misunderstanding between the laity and the clergy of the church. I understood him to say that the difference arose in connection with the Manitoba school question, which was made a political question. Thus, I venture to suggest, not on my own authority at all, but from what has been said by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, that the delegate came to this country in the first place on account of a political question which arose in this country and that his functions have been to some extent at least political and perhaps more political than ecclesiastical.

Now the right hon. gentleman has laid a great deal of stress upon the fact that no communication from the executive of Manitoba in regard to the boundary question had come to this government before the month of January last. But, my hon. friend was not unaware that that question had been brought up in the Manitoba legislature. He was not unaware that resolutions, unanimously concurred in by his own political friends in Manitoba, had been passed by the legislature of that province; and when he sent his letter into the Northwest in the month of September last announcing that new provinces would be created in the Northwest Territories, he knew perfectly well that the question would be to the fore as soon as the Bill was introduced for the purpose of creating those provinces. Therefore, the boundary question was to all intents and purposes to the fore, and very much to the fore, during the present year in connection with the legislation which is now before the House for discussion and in connection with the distribution of territory attending the creation of these provinces. It has been very much to the fore during the last few months especially.

I referred yesterday to certain press comments on the subject, but I did not refer to them very fully. I will take the opportunity of mentioning them again, because they are significant. I have here an article which appeared in the 'Northwest Review', published in the city of Winnipeg. I am not familiar with the 'Northwest Review'; I have no knowledge except what is stated in the press in regard to it. Other hon. gentlemen who are more familiar with that publication can speak better in that regard. I am about to read a statement which would attract attention coming from any responsible source in this country, and I understand that the source to which I refer is a very responsible one in that regard. The words of the 'Northwest Review' are as follows:

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

Two days after the 'Telegram' had trumpeted abroad the Hon. Robert Rogers' great hopes for the western extension of Manitoba, the same wise and prophetic journal deploras the fact that there will be no such extension in any direction. But it omits to give the reason thereof. The only obstacle to the territorial expansion of our province is its iniquitous and cruel school system. Not even the wildest corner of any unorganized territory will consent to saddle itself with such a tyranny. Manitoba must be content to remain small and mean so long as it maintains its small and mean school policy.

Let me say in passing that that small and mean school policy was hailed by my right hon. friend the leader of the government in a speech in this House in 1897, as a happy solution of a very difficult question and one which he pronounced to be perfectly satisfactory to the people of his own province. He said in regard to it:

The only thing I care for is that, whereas, under the Act, 1890, they had not the privilege of teaching their own religion in the schools, by the concessions which have been made, whether they are concessions of new rights or a restoration of old rights, they will have the right hereafter of teaching their own religion in the province of Manitoba.

Further on:

Well, the moment I found that the people of Manitoba was ready to make concessions which practically restored to the Catholics the right of teaching the French language and of teaching their own religion in the schools, I submitted to my fellow countrymen in the province of Quebec that it was far better to obtain those concessions by negotiation than to endeavour to obtain them by means of coercion.

Further on:

And I venture at this moment to say that there is not a man in the province of Quebec, there is not a man in this country, who, looking at the settlement unbiassed and unprejudiced, will not come to the conclusion that it was a happy solution of a very difficult situation indeed.

I hardly think that the words which I have quoted from the 'Northwest Review' are applicable to the happy solution of a very difficult situation which was referred to by my right hon. friend on that occasion. I may say in this connection that some criticism was directed against my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) on account of his statement respecting the confirmation or approval by the people of this country of that settlement in the elections of 1900 and 1904. Why, Sir, my right hon. friend the leader of the government, in 1897, in the same speech to which I have referred, declared that there was ample approval and confirmation of the settlement by the three by-elections which had taken place before the time at which he spoke. Surely, if in the opinion of my right hon. friend three by-elections were a sufficient approval of that