

sometimes they disagree; then the law provides that they have the privilege of separation to organize their own schools. By this amendment the law which is in force to-day receives the sanction in its entirety of the federal authority, it comes exactly within the purview of section 93 of the British North America Act. Now I say this is a small concession, and it seems to be very reasonable. Everybody has heard on the floor of this House, and everybody must have been struck with the fact that all the members of the Northwest Territories, whether on one side of the House or the other, have expressed a pride in their school system, because it provides both for national schools so far as secular instruction is concerned, and it acknowledges the rights of conscience for those who think that there should be religious instruction in schools. Now I know there are gentlemen perhaps on both sides of this House, and there are people in this country, who do not believe in religious instruction being given at all in schools. I respect their views, but I differ from them. I would follow in this matter the example of old Scotland, of England, and also of that land from which we have many traditions. I think it is a proper thing that, *pari passu* with secular education, some attention should be given to the duties of man towards his neighbour and towards his creator, and that is all that is provided for in this amendment. My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) stated a moment ago that he objected to this amendment because it infringed provincial rights. He is consistent in his objection, as he objects to other provisions of this Bill on the same ground. The hon. gentleman says he is in favour of religious instruction, but he is against this amendment, because he would leave that matter altogether to the province to deal with as it pleases. Well, Sir, we have discussed this point and the House has pronounced upon it. I appeal to the fair and calm judgment of the House if this is not a reasonable amendment, which does not interfere with the conscience of any man. It is merely carrying out the intention that has been affirmed by this House of putting into force by federal sanction the system of schools which now prevails in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think I understand what is intended by this proposed amendment, and if you once accept the principle upon which the section is based, which I do not accept, there is something to be said in favour of it. But I would have thought it better and manlier for the government, instead of asking one of their supporters to make this motion, to have accepted a portion of the motion of my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), which covered exactly the same thing. It was a considerable portion of the argument of my hon. friend from Labelle last night that this very injustice, as

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he called it, prevailed under the terms of the Bill which is sought to be remedied by the motion which is just now made. My hon. friend from Labelle made a most elaborate argument in regard to that and made it absolutely clear to every hon. gentleman in this House, and particularly to myself, that this difficulty did occur under the terms of the amendment proposed by the government, but instead of accepting that part of the amendment of the hon. gentleman which dealt with that particular matter the amendment was voted down in its entirety. Hon. gentlemen opposite have twice already voted down this very suggestion, as it was contained in the two motions which they have caused to be defeated. Now, apparently this amendment has been considered by the government and handed to the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Lamont) to move after my hon. friend from Labelle has made this matter very plain and after my hon. friend from Beauharnois has made a very able argument in regard to it. These are little matters of party tactics, but I trust that my hon. friend the Minister of Justice does not suppose for one moment that we are so absolutely blind as to be misled by a little by-play of that kind. It is not paying us any compliment at all to suppose that we are misled by anything so transparent, because every one understands it perfectly. Now, I understand exactly what is intended, and if you accept the principle there is a great deal to be said in favour of the proposal. But my hon. friend from Labelle made that so absolutely clear last night that I need not say very much. The point reduced to a few words, is simply this: We are dealing with the rights of the minority in the Northwest Territories, and in so far as we are to restrain the powers of the provincial legislature the minority, where it is the minority, in the district has certain rights in respect to religious instruction, but the minority where it is the majority in a school district, has not the constitutional guarantee of its rights. If I understand the point made by my hon. friend from Beauharnois and my hon. friend from Labelle that is what they brought to the attention of the committee. This amendment is intended to cover that. It not only seems to cover that, but a great deal more. I will point that out to my right hon. friend the leader of the government and my hon. friend the Minister of Justice and we will see if they do not agree with me. Will my hon. friend the Minister of Justice do me the kindness, because we cannot always have these matters immediately in our minds, to look for one moment at the language of subsection 1 of the amended section 16:

1. Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to separate schools which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this Act, under the terms of chapters 29 and 30 of the