

ever name the same may be known, may establish such schools therein as they may think fit, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor; and, further, that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein.

And my hon. friend voted for that.

Mr. SPROULE. I can tell the hon. gentleman that he is astray. I never voted for that.

Mr. BRODEUR. That Bill was introduced in 1880.

Mr. SPROULE. It may have been introduced but it was not voted on to my knowledge. The school question had never been raised. The hon. gentleman has been reading a re-enactment of the old law passed in 1875. The question of separate schools was never discussed in this House nor voted upon during my time in it. I never heard a word regarding it because if I had you may be sure that I would have stood then just where I stand to-day.

Mr. BRODEUR. If my hon. friend will permit me? I suppose he does not deny that this clause was enacted in 1875, but section 9 was not enacted in 1875. It was enacted in 1880. By that section, section 93 of the British North America Act was incorporated in the Bill and I am sure my hon. friend will not deny that he had not a word to say against it.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not think I ever heard a word about it.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Was it a re-enactment or an alteration?

Mr. BRODEUR. No, it was an Act concerning the Northwest Territories.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is not the question I asked. Was it a re-enactment or was it in any substantial respect a new enactment? That is a fair question.

Mr. BRODEUR. It was an Act presented to the House by Sir John Macdonald.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am not asking that.

Mr. BRODEUR. It was an Act presented to the House by Sir John Macdonald concerning the Northwest Territories and amongst the different clauses of this Act were sections 9 and 10 which I have just read and which forced the government of the Northwest Territories always to maintain separate schools.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Surely the hon. gentleman understands if he has not some reason for not answering my question. I desire to know whether or not these provisions to which he has called attention were the re-enactments of provisions previously

passed or whether they were substantially new enactments. Is that not a fair question?

Mr. BRODEUR. I may say in regard to section 9 that I did not say that it was a re-enactment of any section contained in the Act of 1875. As to the principle embodied in section 10 it was a re-enactment of the clause which appeared in the Act of 1875 but as to the embodiment in the Northwest Territories Act of section 93 of the British North America Act, I think it was the first time it was incorporated in the Bill.

Mr. SPROULE. That might be and I would pay no attention to it. I was not familiar until later years with the British North America Act. You might mention any clause of the British North America Act and I would not know what it did or did not apply to. But, as I understand it that was a simple re-enactment of the Act of 1875 and if I had known of it then I would have stood just where I stand to-day. It did not matter who was in power or which party introduced it.

It is contended that immigrants coming to settle in the Northwest Territories have been influenced in favour of this country by the knowledge that there were separate schools here, in connection with the church to which they belonged, and that if we do not perpetuate these schools, we shall do a great injustice to them and be likely to retard immigration. Now, I took the trouble to look up the immigration literature issued by the present government to ascertain if there was anything to justify that statement, and I could not find anything at all. Here is one of the important pamphlets distributed by the government, and what does it say with regard to schools? It says:

Schools are non-sectarian and are national in character.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Might I ask the hon. gentleman if that is a government issue and, if so, under whose authority?

Mr. SPROULE. This is a government issue, by authority of the Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior. It is entitled 'Farms and Farmers in Western Canada,' to be distributed in the United States, the old country or anywhere else. It also sets out that a certain proportion of land is set apart for the support of national schools, and that the state provides for their support and maintenance. This is not an evidence that immigrants come to that country because of the advantages offered to them in the shape of separate schools. I may draw attention to another fact, which may not be known to many. There have been presented to this House from all parts of Canada a large number of petitions against the educational clause of this Bill. Petitions have come from the Northwest Territories, with tens of thousands of