

of rates therefor, and (b) that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor, and (c) that in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable only to assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves with respect thereto.

By these two Acts, constitutional parliament the whole country, Conservatives as well as Liberals, fulfilled the royal promises made to the inhabitants of the Northwest Territories and the rights and privileges which were covered by those promises. By these constitutions of Manitoba and the Territories, these rights and privileges solemnly guaranteed became intangible, and the legislature of the new province and also the legislature of the organized territories have maintained these rights and privileges in their first laws and ordinances on education.

During twenty years in Manitoba, during seventeen years in the Territories, the sense of justice and honour prevailed and peace was enjoyed. After that short period imperial promises were violated, constitutions given by federal government were shattered, and since then, Catholics are deprived of their rights.

There was a lack of firmness at the beginning. It should have been distinctly stated that provincial rights in matter of education existed only under the express condition that the rights of the minorities should be respected. Without this condition provinces have no rights whether exclusive or others. To my mind, this doctrine cannot be assailed. It is because it has not been held from the beginning and firmly and strongly sustained, that this morbid agitation which is still doing to-day so much mischief became possible, and in the course of time led astray a great part of our people. Nevertheless we may say that it has been more noisy than effective. In 1896, notwithstanding the efforts of the strange coalition of the Liberal party, under Mr. Laurier, with the ultra Protestants under the guidance of Mr. Dalton McCarthy, and the Tories under Mr. Clarke Wallace, Manitoba which according to the coalition, was so cruelly persecuted, the province which had the greatest interest, was sending four Conservative members out of six to the federal parliament. The same would be repeated to-day if only we had a little courage and firmness. But I come back to my argument. I have proved most conclusively that assurances and promises had been given by the imperial authorities to the inhabitants of the Northwest before the transfer of that territory to the new Canadian confederation. The constitution granted to Manitoba and to the Territories show that Canada recognized these assurances, and fulfilled them faithfully. I am thus in the position to say that the dignity of the Crown is engaged and that the violation of these promises and constitution should be remedied. I may

say, with all due respect to the King, that the King by parliament of Canada is bound in honour to restore these violated rights, to reinstate in their rights and privileges that portion of his subjects who trusted the word of the Crown, and who are now persecuted on account of their religious convictions.

The sole reason of the Canadian parliament in voting the two constitutions of Manitoba and the Territories, was not merely the execution of the promises given; the country had entered towards the proposition of the Northwest in a compact which we are bound to maintain.

In the beginning of 1870 there was no province of Manitoba, no government in the Northwest Territory. Canada itself possessed nothing, and had absolutely no jurisdiction in these vast countries.

Forgetful of the restrictions of federal autonomy, Canada went beyond its jurisdiction and thereby gave occasion to difficulties in the Red river country, which at the time was purely and simply a British possession; the Hudson Bay Company having, on consideration, desisted from its pretensions or rights. The imperial government was willing to transfer the country to Canada, on the conditions stipulated in 1869, but moreover, on certain other conditions determined by the insurrectional movement, which had been caused by Canada's premature entrance in the country.

The Northwest was not to enter into confederation as a conquered land. 'Troops should not be employed in forcing the sovereignty of Canada on the population of the Red river, should they refuse to admit it.' (Sir F. Roger's letter, 22nd March, 1870.) Having not to conquer, Canada had to resort to negotiations to secure the admission of the Northwest into her confederation and to accept decision of Her Majesty's government on all portions of the 'Settlers' Bill of Rights,' in order to satisfy the delegate who had been called to negotiate. The negotiations were unquestionably binding on both sides on the points agreed to, otherwise they could not be called 'negotiations' or 'understanding as to the terms on which the settlements on the Red river should be admitted into the Dominion.'

Peace was restored within a short time and on May 3, 1870, the Governor General was able to telegraph to Lord Granville: 'Negotiations with the delegates closed satisfactorily.'

All that was to be, and was done without trespassing on the autonomy of the Dominion of Canada; but all that could not be done without imposing on Canada new and special obligations, that she would have to respect and cause to be respected throughout the country she was to acquire, and in the different provinces and territories that she might think proper to circumscribe therein. These obligations, on the part of the federal government, cannot be considered as an encroachment on the rights of the province of Manitoba, or of the Northwest Territories, as they were accepted by Canada, even before the creation of Manitoba, and the organization of the Territories.

Let us now consider what are the obligations of the federal government with regard to education in the countries which have been the object of the negotiations of 1870.

The delegates of the Northwest carried to Ottawa and supported a certain bill of rights. The 7th article related to schools, and de-