

erced. It is strong ground still. But if a province should not be coerced into establishing separate schools, it follows that it should not be coerced into rejecting separate schools. Consequently the logical position for Ontario electors is to remain silent and allow the measure to become law if the Territories are satisfied.

Mr. SPROULE. I may say to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) that it is not proposed to coerce them even to doing away with separate schools to-morrow. We do not ask the question whether it is wise for the people of the Northwest to do away with separate schools or whether they desire to have them. We do not even take the opportunity to give advice. We only ask that the people of the Northwest should be allowed freedom to legislate on this subject.

Mr. SCOTT. That is my hon. friend's (Mr. Sproule's) position. But his colleague's position was, 'The logical position for Ontario electors is to remain silent and allow the measure to become law if the Territories are satisfied.'

Now, perhaps the House will bear with me while I deal with this point. I appreciate the fact that I am infringing upon the good nature of hon. members. I propose to give the House some proof that the Territories are satisfied, and that there is no agitation, no well founded agitation, no widespread agitation in the Northwest Territories. I will quote first an expression of opinion from the Calgary 'Herald.' This is a Conservative newspaper, probably the chief Conservative newspaper in the Northwest Territories—certainly the principal one in Alberta:

Mr. HYMAN. What is the date?

Mr. SCOTT. It is subsequent to the revised Bill—I think it is March 15:—

If the news from Ottawa that there is to be no interference with the present educational system of the west is true, the agitation which has arisen, mainly in Ontario, will in all probability subside. A creed disturbance is always of a most rancorous kind—it spreads like a prairie fire and in its train leaves a bitterness where harmony prevailed. Sir Wilfrid's decision is sure to be regarded with strong favour throughout the west.

With regard to the existing separate schools the Calgary 'Herald' goes on to say:—

All regulations have been made by the Regina government, and he must be blind indeed who cannot see that even if separate schools were detrimental to the country's true interests, all objectionable features have been clipped off. Harmony prevails: why disturb it? It is worth repeating that the west is glad that the federal premier has changed his mind.

I have here an expression of opinion of a member of the Northwest legislature, a gentleman who voted for Mr. Haultain's draft Bill. I withhold the name. This letter was written on March 25:—

I must congratulate you on the Autonomy Bill. It is almost impossible to find a person here who is dissatisfied with it. Of course, some people, for political reasons probably, are very sorry that the public lands have not been given us, that Canadian Pacific Railway exemptions are to be allowed to remain, and that the separate school question has been forced upon us, but their opposition is so very faint that no one has for one instant any idea but that everybody is more than pleased with the way things have been managed by our representatives, and the generous treatment we have received from the Ottawa government. As far as I can see we have got everything that we hoped for and a good deal more than we expected, and I think the sentiments I express are only those of the people at large throughout the country.

One of the newspapers of the Northwest Territories which took strong ground against the original section 16, the Medicine Hat 'News,' speaks as follows:—

A general feeling of relief and pleasure is being experienced throughout the Territories by reason of the announcement that the Autonomy Bill has been re-introduced with the educational clauses modified to meet the wishes of the people principally concerned and their representatives in parliament. The provisions affecting the school question are now so framed as to maintain in the west the same system which has been in vogue in the past and under the conditions of which educational matters were conducted most harmoniously. The amended clauses have already met with the endorsement of the leading papers in the Territories, including the Calgary 'Herald' and others which were greatly concerned as to the effect which would be the outcome of the clause as originally presented.

Mr. SPROULE. May I ask if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) was present when the hon. member (Mr. Lake) who spoke last night read the account of the meeting of the Reform party convened at Indian Head, which passed a strong resolution against interference with the Territories.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) surely understands that you will never get unanimity of opinion over a great area like this. The people in some quarters hold a contrary opinion to that of the government, sometimes a contrary opinion from that of their neighbours. The Reform party has always been specifically a party in which divergence of opinion has existed and is not only permitted but expected.

Mr. J. J. Young, who is a Conservative member of the legislature for Calgary, and the proprietor of the Calgary 'Herald,' made a statement immediately after the introduction of the original Bills, in the course of which he said:

As to the school question, the present arrangement is working satisfactorily, and as long as the federal authorities leave things as they are, I apprehend that there will be no serious opposition from the intelligent portion of the electorate.

The Toronto 'Globe' had a correspondent in the west at the time these Bills were in-