

ity within the meaning of the Act of 1875—or I think the statute requires 5: if 5 Roman Catholics or 5 Protestants entered a community of 1,000 Mormons, then the 5 Roman Catholics or 5 Protestants would be a majority within the meaning of the Act of 1875. Well, that may be the case, my hon. friend may be right, but if so, it only adds one more to the extraordinary interpretations which we have been forced to place upon this Act of 1875. So far as the word 'separate' is concerned, I adhere, with all due deference, to the view that it means exactly what it says, a separate school, it implies nothing more. And when you draw illustrations from provincial legislation you are at once met with the illustration mentioned by my hon. friend from Hamilton, that in the province of Quebec you have a separate school which does not depend in any respect upon the religion of those who constitute the pupils.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think we have not made very much progress, and I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Progress reported.

On motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, House adjourned at 9.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, June 9, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery a certificate of the election of Mr. Louis Auguste Carrier for the electoral district of Lévis, in the province of Quebec.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Report of dividends remaining unpaid, unclaimed balances, unpaid drafts and bills of exchange in chartered banks of the Dominion of Canada for five years and upwards, prior to December 31, 1904.—Hon. W. S. Fielding.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 173) respecting the St. Maurice Valley Railway Company.—Mr. Bureau.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

On the Orders of the Day being called,

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to give a word of personal

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

explanation. I notice by reading the report of yesterday's debates that in replying to a question that was put to me by the hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden), I gave a reply which certainly entitled the hon. gentleman to say later on in the debate, while I was absent, that I had stated something that led to an absurd conclusion. I see by reading the report that in fact I had not properly understood the question of the hon. gentleman. He asked me:

Suppose there was no majority of either Protestants or Roman Catholics in the district; suppose there was one-third Protestant, one-third Roman Catholic and one-third Jews and Mormons; does he not think that the word 'majority' in section 11 would enable the majority of these people to establish a school?

Mr. BOURASSA. No, I do not think so.

I had evidently misunderstood the question of the hon. gentleman. I was dealing at that time with the distinction that was established with regard to denominational schools, and meant to say that there was no other denominational school referred to in section 11 of the Act of 1875 but Protestant schools and Catholic schools, and I understood the hon. gentleman's question to mean that in case a majority would be composed partly of Protestants and partly of Mormons, they could establish any other denominational schools. Naturally the context to my remarks later on proved that I acknowledged the right of any majority to have a public school, but, as far as denominational schools are concerned, it would be either a Protestant or a Catholic school. Of course, I could have corrected this in the report of the debate so as to make my thought clear, but I considered it would be an injustice to the hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) on account of the further remarks he made later on, so I prefer making this explanation and leaving the text as it is. I hope this will be satisfactory to him.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Certainly.

SUPPLY.

House in Committee of Supply.

Steamship subventions—for a line or lines of steamers to run between St. John and Halifax or either, and the West Indies and South America, \$80,700.

Mr. DANIEL. As I understand it, tenders have been called for in regard to this service, which will be due, I think, about the middle of this month.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No; the tenders have been invited, and are now in.

Mr. DANIEL. They have been received?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.

Mr. DANIEL. I am aware that the contractor for this service has expressed a desire to leave out the port of St. John and confine the maritime port to the port of