

of self-government as separate a part of the Dominion as any of the provinces. We have a legislature and form of government bearing a very close analogy to that which exists in the provinces, and in every respect, therefore, except in respect of the necessary means for carrying on those institutions, we stand in very much the same position as a province, and we may for present purposes be fairly called 'an integral part of the Dominion'.

Mr. SPROULE. What were the present purposes?

Mr. SCOTT. (reading).

We have been created what I may be allowed to call a political entity.

Of course that is for present purposes.

Mr. SPROULE. I have no doubt he was speaking of rights which were quite within their power and which they were entitled to exercise; for present purposes they were to all intents and purposes a province, but that would not give them the same rights as if they were really provinces.

Mr. SCOTT. As I have something more to say on this point later on I will not take up further time at this moment.

A great deal of discussion has taken place throughout the country and I am afraid there has been a good deal of misconception with regard to this school matter. I am afraid that some of it has not been entirely honest misconception. I am afraid that some public journals in this country are not very careful to create a proper conception with regard to this subject. In one paper we have a motto appearing day after day.

A FREE WEST, A COMMON SCHOOL, PROVINCIAL RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.

Articles and inflammatory cartoons under that motto have led the innocent citizen to believe that the proposals of the government are entirely in the teeth of this motto. I say that every item proposed by the government is in strict observance of these principles. Where is there to be found any religious inequality in the proposition of the government. Read over the resolutions; are Roman Catholic minorities especially singled out? The protection is for Protestant as well as for Roman Catholic. It may be that the Roman Catholics as a whole in the Northwest are in the minority but that is not the interpretation of this section; it is the minority in each public school district that is concerned. It may be that in time to come there will be—there may be now for all I know—as many Protestant minorities as Catholic minorities in the two provinces. At the present moment I believe the majority of the Roman Catholics in the country are in groups. They do not constitute minorities. Provincial rights, as I have already said,

Mr. SCOTT.

is a comparative term. I believe—and the large majority of the people in the Northwest Territories that I have heard from since these proposals were brought down also believe—that provincial rights are being granted to them in the fullest sense in which they are enjoyed by any other province of Canada. A common school—that is just what we are asked to vote for in this proposition; a non-sectarian school, absolutely under state control. A free west—that is, a reasonably free west; just as free as Ontario. Talk about throttling the west! Then two-thirds of the people of this Dominion live in provinces which are throttled, are they feeling very badly? They have in Ontario, I understand, what are called church schools, and I believe they have church schools in Quebec also. Are they feeling badly? If this proposition were placing a severe hardship on the people of the west, it is not as severe a hardship as has been placed on the people of these other provinces, because it is giving the west, not an ecclesiastical school, not a church school, but a free common school under state control. At all events, two-thirds of the people of this Dominion are living in provinces not more free, not so free,—provinces that have always been looked upon as being autonomous provinces, and apparently doing very well. The Bill, I believe to be in strict harmony with that motto: 'A free west, a common school, provincial rights and religious equality.' These provinces will be as free as any other province if we are to regard and apply the principles of the British North America Act—I for one believe more free, because, by section 16 of the Bill, we restrict and diminish the full and complete application of section 93 of the British North America Act.

Autonomy, as I said before, is a comparative term. As was pointed out very well by the hon. Postmaster General last evening, there are no two provinces of Canada with the same constitution. I venture to say that the average citizen of the Territory, if he had been asked if he would accept the autonomy that British Columbia has would have said: No, the limit of population would not suit either of these new provinces. If asked if he would accept the autonomy that Manitoba has, he would say certainly not, notwithstanding that Manitoba is absolutely free in regard to the school matter, because the financial terms given to Manitoba would be entirely unsatisfactory to the new provinces. For the same reason as in the case of British Columbia he would not be prepared to accept the autonomy which the maritime provinces possess. Make the suggestion to him that he accept the autonomy which Quebec has, and what would he say? Quebec is limited in the matter of language; it is obliged to recognize officially two languages, and it is limited in other respects. He would not ac-