

educational system much more liberal, much more regardful of their religious and national rights than Mr. Haultain has granted to French Canadians of the Northwest. And our French Canadian representatives here are ready to accept that system as a guarantee of the rights of their fellow countrymen. Let me tell them that there is not much pride and not much spirit in them if they do.

It has been said that the Catholics, at least where they have a majority, are free to engage their own teachers, that they are free to elect their own trustees, and may then avail themselves of the right to choose their own teachers. But it must not be forgotten that, so far as these teachers are concerned, they must of necessity, under subsection 17 of section 95, be qualified under the regulations of the department of education. If this had only reference to the technical knowledge of the teachers and their pedagogical qualifications, I would have nothing to say. Our teachers are not afraid to submit to any kind of an educational test. I do not see why our teachers in the Northwest should not be able to obtain their share of the diplomas, especially when our students in the colleges of Manitoba generally take three times their proportion of the university honours in that province. But there is everything in this ordinance to prevent Catholic teachers from attending the normal schools. For three years during Mr. Haultain's administration, from 1892 to 1895, Catholic teachers were precluded from following the courses of the normal schools. True in practice more toleration has been given, and that is the reason why there are not more protests from the Northwest. The Catholic minority in the Northwest are being deceived by the government organs just as are the people of the province of Quebec. They have been told that the object of this legislation is to keep to them everything they now have in fact. Not later than six o'clock this afternoon, a friend of mine told me that the object of the amendment moved by the First Minister was to keep to the minority everything they have in practice. But let us not suffer under any delusion. The only thing guaranteed by the amendment is what the minority may have with respect to separate schools under the ordinance of 1901. That ordinance contains everything sufficient to stamp out the teaching of French and religious teaching in the Territories. It may be said that the governments of the new provinces will not rigidly apply it. But if we are to rely upon the generosity of the majority of the people, why put anything in the law at all? But do not come and make the people in the province of Quebec, or the minority in the Northwest, believe that you are guaranteeing the minority the right to choose their own teachers or to have the French language taught in their own schools or

Mr. BOURASSA.

Catholic education. You are guaranteeing nothing of the kind. The whole guarantee is contained in the declaration of the Minister of Justice made a few days ago. You guarantee the right to have separate schools wherever there is a minority. Where the Catholics are in a majority, they have no such right. And where they have the right to separate schools, all that right consists in their being given the liberty to have half an hour of religious teaching and the choice of two primary readers for the younger children. More than that, under the ordinance of 1901 the government may dispense at any time with the trustees. The board of trustees may be suppressed at any moment. Under section 7, subsection 2, the commissioner of education has the right:

To appoint an official trustee to conduct the affairs of any district, and any such official trustee shall have all the powers and authorities conferred by this ordinance upon a board of its officers; and shall be remunerated out of the funds of the district or otherwise as the Lieutenant Governor in Council may decide; and upon the appointment of any such official trustee the board of any district for which he is appointed shall cease to hold office as such.

It may be said that this is only in cases where financial difficulties may prevent the trustees from acting. No, that is provided by another clause. Section 51 provides for the disorganization of a school district and the administration of its affairs in cases of financial difficulty. Section 7 gives ample power, without qualification or limitation, to the commissioner to dispense with the trustees and in this way deprive the people of the right to have trustees. So that even that primary right is not guaranteed either for the public schools or separate schools under the ordinance of 1901. It may be said that the provision, which I was the first to point out, with respect to the organization of public school districts was unintentional. The right hon. the First Minister this afternoon tried to connect the provision of the ordinance of 1901 with the preceding ordinances. But, as I have said, if you go to the ordinances of 1886, 1888, 1892, 1896 and 1898, you will see that any three resident ratepayers could organize a school district without any qualification, and the Catholics always could organize Catholic public schools wherever they were in a majority. In 1901, however, this was changed, and for the first time there was in the ordinances a provision which allowed only public schools to be created—article 12 of that ordinance, under which any portion of the Territories may be erected into a public school district.

The hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Brodeur) quoted some few days ago a document which, I think, was sent to the Department of Justice from the Northwest giving the number of Catholic public schools in the Territories, and the hon. minister drew the inference that there are still