

ever it may be, has done the country infinite harm. In some of the speeches made by hon. members opposite, the meeting at Massey hall was described as a mob trying to enlighten its rulers. Well, I think that that mob of 'renegade Liberals,' as another member called them, were decidedly right in trying to enlighten their leaders, for their leaders were leading them into a pit—which, I hope, the leaders themselves will fall into.

We have seen, in the interview with the newly-appointed Minister of the Interior published in the papers last night, that the educational clauses in this Bill have already been altered and there is no reason why they should not be further altered. If it is the intention of the government to change these educational clauses, surely the government ought to let us have it now. They should not put it off, allowing this bitterness to increase, and this misunderstanding—if it be a misunderstanding—as to the interpretation of the clauses to grow more intense. If this Bill is sent to the Privy Council or to any other competent authority to be revised, surely it would have been wiser on the part of the government to find out what their authority was and then bring in the Bill under that authority, rather than bring in the Bill first and find what it means afterwards.

The question of control of the lands and other matters in connection with the Bill will be discussed much better when the Bill is in committee. The educational clauses have been discussed at length and I do not propose to go further into them just now.

There is one gentleman to whom, I think, the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will owe a deep apology in connection with this Autonomy Bill. I refer to his admirer—his late admirer—the man who has been for years holding him up to the public as the great advocate of provincial rights and a great constitutional lawyer—Mr. Willison, who wrote the right hon. gentleman's biography. Mr. Willison wrote the biography of the right hon. Dr. Jekyll-Laurier in 864 pages. He will now have to write the biography of the right hon. Mr. Hyde-Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada. It is a great misfortune for Mr. Willison that he had not a full knowledge of his subject before he wrote the right hon. gentleman's biography. The man wrote the life of that strange dual character Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde knew from the very beginning of his writing the two sides of the man, and so was able to make his biography complete in every part. But Mr. Willison in his 864 pages, saw only one side of the character he was portraying. And now he has to undo all he has written and write the biography of the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) as he now knows him, in 865 pages at least.

Mr. R. R. HALL (West Peterborough). Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to take up

much of the time of the House in discussing the matter before the chair, but I would like to make a few observations with regard to the constitutional aspect of these Bills. The Northwest Territories, as we know, were admitted into the Dominion in 1871, pursuant to section 146 of the British North America Act. When these Territories were admitted into Canada, they did not come in in the same way as other provinces had done. They did not come in as the British North America Act of 1867 evidently assumed new territory would come in. They came in as Territories and not as provinces, and, coming in in that way, it became necessary to have an Imperial Act passed for the purpose of providing for the peace, order, and good government of these new Territories. Had they come in as provinces, the machinery of the British North America Act would have applied to them. The Act that was passed to meet this case is known as the British North America Act of 1871. By section 4 of that Act, it is expressly provided:

The parliament of Canada may from time to time make provision for the administration, peace, order and good government of any territory not for the time being included in any province.

Canada, therefore, under this section of the British North America Act of 1871 was given full power to give these Territories such laws as, in its judgment, seemed wise, during the time they were territories. Canada accordingly passed an Act which is known as the Northwest Territories Act of 1875. Powers of local self-government were given these Territories, so that they could look after their own local affairs. Subsequently these powers were from time to time extended, and further powers were given as the circumstances made necessary. Let us consider for a moment the circumstances surrounding the Act of 1875, the original Act granting local self-government to the Territories, so far as educational matters are concerned. We know that the Bill which, when passed, became the Act of 1875, was brought down by the then Prime Minister, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. It had no educational clauses. However, Hon. Edward Blake, whom we all know to be a staunch Protestant, pointed out the fact that the Bill did not contain any provision in respect of separate schools. Accordingly the suggestion was made to introduce section 11, giving to the minority, Protestant or Roman Catholic, the right to establish separate schools, and empowering the rate-payers, Protestant or Roman Catholic, establishing schools, to be liable to assessment only for such rates as they might impose on themselves in respect of their schools. I may say that this clause 11 was passed unanimously by the House of Commons at that time. Some comments were made in favour of it, and it was approved