

men on both sides if I do not leave this House the very moment I am called upon to do so by the religious authorities of my church.

I am not surprised, Mr. Speaker, that after the declaration made by the Minister of Justice and his statement which I have just quoted, he should try to redeem his pledge in framing the Bill now under discussion. The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) speaking the other night said ('Hansard,' page 3243):

My hon. friend the Minister of Justice the other evening accepted, as I understood, the responsibility for drawing the clause which contained the educational provisions, and I understood him also to say that the intention was to continue the existing state of affairs. Nobody would think of holding the Prime Minister responsible for the exact drafting of this clause, and I suppose it is not likely that my hon. friend the Minister of Justice drew it either. But I am bound to say, Mr. Speaker, that when my hon. friend the Minister of Justice employed a draughtsman to draw this clause, with instructions to maintain only the existing state of affairs in the Northwest Territories, the draughtsman either wholly misunderstood his instructions or he possessed a most marvellous faculty for covering things which were not covered by his instructions.

That is the opinion of one of his late colleagues, accusing the Minister of Justice, if not himself personally then the draughtsman he employed, of covering up some things that he did not intend to see the light of day. Well, if the ex-Minister of the Interior had read the amended clause critically, he would find a great deal covered up in that also, and he would find that it contained a great deal more than he stated it did contain. He stated that this clause only maintained the educational system to-day in existence in the Territories, providing for one-half hour's religious instruction between half past three and four o'clock in the afternoon.

Therefore is it to be wondered at that in 1896, with a party united Roman Catholic vote throughout the Dominion, in the other provinces as well as in the province of Quebec, and with the support of the late Dalton McCarthy and other strong Protestants who thought that the right hon. gentleman was in earnest and actually fighting the hierarchy of his own church—is it to be wondered at that under those circumstances the Liberal party carried the country and carried the province of Quebec almost unanimously? The Prime Minister then formed his government, but did he carry out his promise that he would settle the Manitoba school question? Did he send a commission out to Manitoba headed by Sir Oliver Mowat to investigate the facts and achieve a settlement? He did not. But he sent a commission composed of one, the hon. Mr. Tarte, and then the First Minister announced to the country that he had settled the difficulty, and that declaration was printed in a circular entitled 'Pointer No. 2.' But

we know that the question was not settled because we have seen the First Minister's letter to his Holiness the Pope, and we have besides the Bill now before the House. However they said the question was settled, but how was that settlement arrived at? The commission consisting, not of several members with Sir Oliver Mowat at their head, but of Mr. Tarte alone, then Minister of Public Works, went to Manitoba. There Mr. Tarte saw Mr. Greenway. And I would ask the right hon. gentlemen the First Minister to-day to appoint a commission and have Mr. Tarte sworn as a witness, and I am quite certain that he will give evidence to the following effect. He will say that he went out and saw Mr. Greenway and said to him: We want this troublesome question put out of the way. Mr. Greenway replied: I cannot settle it until the hon. Mr. Sifton, then a member of the Manitoba government, and Joe Martin, and Mr. Prendergast are removed. Get these gentlemen out of the way and then come back and we will consider a settlement. Mr. Tarte approached the Canadian Pacific Railway authorities and said to them: We want to get Joe Martin removed out of the province of Manitoba, and I want you to hire him for five years at a salary of \$10,000 a year. Appoint him your solicitor and send him out to British Columbia. The Canadian Pacific Railway asked: How are we to be recouped? To this question Mr. Tarte replied: You are asking for a bonus to build the Crow's Nest Pass railway. The late government offered you a bonus. Appoint Martin your solicitor for five years at \$10,000 a year, and we will double that bonus. The Canadian Pacific engaged Martin and sent him away, and legislation was brought down to this House increasing the subsidy to the Crow's Nest Railway to an extent sufficient to double the payment which the Canadian Pacific Railway were giving Martin for acting as their solicitor. Then Mr. Tarte approached Mr. Prendergast and said to him: Prendergast, you are a poor man fighting the interests of the minority in Manitoba. Give up your position, and we will appoint you to the bench as chief justice of that province. Mr. Prendergast looked at the salary of chief justice, compared it with the little pay he was getting, and said: I will take it. And he was given the position. Then Mr. Tarte went to Mr. Sifton and said to him: You are the man who has been helping on this agitation. Now we want to settle the difficulty. There is a vacant portfolio at Ottawa, that of the Minister of the Interior. You will there have control of all the lands in Manitoba and the Territories and the gold lands of the Yukon. Withdraw from your position in the Manitoba government and join in making concessions to the minority, and you can have the office of Minister of the Interior. Mr. Sifton, shrewd fellow that he is, said: I would take it but on one condition, and that is that I shall have full