

Port of Nelson for ingress and egress to and from the markets of the world. That right, I believe, has never been abrogated. That territory was ceded back from the heirs of Lord Selkirk in 1836 or 1837 but there are no records that I am able to find of any abrogation of the rights of the people of the province of Manitoba to use the waters of the Nelson river and the Port of Nelson. I do not state that this is a legal right. Other citizens of the Dominion of Canada have a right to use these waters, but it gives us at least some moral claim to extension of territory to the north. And I am quite sure that, when the proper time comes, the government will seriously and favourably entertain the proposition of the province of Manitoba that we should have our boundaries extended northward.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a good many letters—well, I will not say a good many, but I have had a few letters—from my constituency, the city of Winnipeg, with respect to the most important feature of the Bill now before the House. I have been told to listen to the voice of the people of '96. I have had two letters to that effect. I think I have had a resolution of the Right Rev. Grand Lodge of Western Ontario in somewhat similar form. Now, what is the voice of the people of '96? The issue before the people of Canada in 1896 was the Remedial Bill. We are all acquainted with the facts. I have made a summary of a few clauses of the Remedial Bill, which, perhaps, you will allow me to read—the whole is too long to be read here.

Section 1. The Lieutenant Governor in Council of the province of Manitoba shall appoint, to form and constitute a separate school board of education for the province, a certain number of persons not exceeding nine, all of whom shall be Roman Catholics.

2. If Lieutenant Governor fails to appoint, the Governor General shall do so.

3. Regulations for separate schools.

4. Board of education shall manage separate schools and authorize school books. Must approve plans for school houses and size of school grounds.

7. The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint superintendent of separate schools.

10. Municipalities cannot form new school districts without sanction of separate board of education.

16. Provides for election of separate school boards of trustees.

23. Provides for annual school assessment.

How money shall be disposed of.

If municipal council refuses to levy separate board of education may do so.

24. Subsection 8 provides that if municipal officers refuse to sell land for arrears of separate schools, then separate school board may do so.

28. Provides that no property of Roman Catholics shall be liable for taxes of national or public schools if already taxed for separate schools.

29. Provides for equitable distribution of school funds by the legislature between public and separate schools.

Mr. BOLE.

Clause 81 provides for the compulsory education of the children of Catholic parents. Clause 90 provides that if the Lieutenant Governor in Council refuse to sanction a loan the Governor General may do so. Clause 110 provides for the establishment of a normal school in the town of St. Boniface. This Remedial Bill does not even give the legislature of Manitoba the option of locating a normal school. Now, Mr. Speaker, that was the issue.

Mr. HAGGART. Is the hon. gentleman aware that that is simply a copy of the Act that was in force in Manitoba?

Mr. BOLE. I have no doubt that it followed to a certain extent the Remedial Bill, extracts of which I have read. That was the issue before the people in 1896, and it was upon that issue that the people were called upon to vote. I have stated that I have been asked by some of my constituents to remember the voice of the people in 1896. Now, what was the voice of my own province? The province of Manitoba, by a vote of 15,459 to 14,592, proclaimed that it was desirous that this party of provincial rights should impose upon the people of that country the Separate School Bill. By a majority of 967 the people of my province said that the government of that day should impose upon them this Bill which they had rejected themselves. Should I listen to the voice of my own city of Winnipeg? Winnipeg, by a majority of 126 decided in favour of this Remedial Bill which provided for separate schools to the province of Manitoba. Should I listen to the voice of Ontario? I am not quite sure what the voice of Ontario was, because there were divers candidates in the field, but I will accept the statement made by the 'Mail and Empire' newspaper of Toronto. Their calculation is as follows: Conservatives majorities, 11,906; Liberal majorities, 11,843. In other words, the Protestant province of Ontario asked that separate schools should be imposed upon Manitoba by a majority of 63. But there were in that election Conservative independent candidates whose majorities amounted to 6,303, and McCarthyite independents whose majorities amounted to 1,554. So the Conservatives and Conservative independent majorities amounted to 18,209, while the Liberal and McCarthyite majorities amounted to 13,397. I am not quite sure that I am interpreting these figures correctly, I am simply giving the statement of the 'Mail and Empire,' and we know that it is not always right. But I understand that the Conservative independents when they came down to Ottawa to the parliament of 1896 immediately took their places in the Conservative caucus. So we find that the Conservative and Conservative independents had a clear majority of 4,812 over the Liberals and McCarthyites. That, Mr. Speaker, was the voice of the province of Ontario.