

local conditions permit, there shall be religious instruction in all schools in the Northwest Territories, not in the minority schools only. Then there is a further provision that all schools may be opened with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

That is the description of the schools which I find in the speech of the Minister of Finance. I will now take the liberty, Mr. Speaker, to read the description of the same schools given by the hon. member for St. Antoine division, Montreal (Mr. Ames). He says:

Now we come to the consideration of the school system as we find it in the Canadian Northwest to-day and which it is proposed by statutory legislation to render permanent. In the first place we find that there exists the basic right of dissent, that where, in a community, there are Roman Catholic taxpayers, these taxpayers may unite and have a separate school. They may then elect Roman Catholic trustees and these Roman Catholic trustees may engage a Roman Catholic teacher. The Roman Catholic in the Canadian Northwest to-day, cannot be taxed twice and that is practically his only advantage. After the school has been constituted in the Canadian Northwest, it cannot deviate in any particular from the fixed national type. That school becomes immediately under the control of the government. There is a minister, or a commissioner of education and that commissioner of education is aided by a council, but mark you, that council is very different from the council of public instruction such as we know it in Quebec. There is a very great difference, because, as I said, our council passes regulations, looks after the administration of the schools and is very rarely in any way interfered with, but the council which exists in the Canadian Northwest is a purely advisory body. It has absolutely no right to vote. It can simply suggest, counsel, consider and make reports. It meets once a year and is simply a sort of expert advisory board to the government which may accept or reject the report submitted to it. The Northwest system as I said is completely under the control of the government. The Minister of Education is himself a member of the government, responsible to the legislature and to the people, and under him there exists a uniform system of national schools throughout the Canadian Northwest. We have one normal school and every one who would be certificated as a teacher must either pass one examination or go through that normal school. No teachers are permitted to teach in the Canadian Northwest unless they are duly certificated. It would be impossible for members of religious orders to teach in these schools as members of these orders. They may teach as teachers and cases are on record where certain of the nuns have been at considerable difficulty and trouble to pass through the normal school at Regina just as every one else must do in order that they may be qualified by certificate to teach in the separate schools of the Canadian Northwest.

But the fact that they are nuns gives them no right to teach in the separate schools of the Canadian Northwest. The whole system is uniform. We have uniform certificates for teachers, uniform examinations, and uniform inspectors all of which show that the system is a

national system. In the matter of school books, we find that the same school books are used in all the schools with the exception of the first and second years in the elementary course.

This is the only deviation from the regular class books that are ordinarily employed throughout the schools in the Canadian Northwest.

Then, I come to the question of religious teaching which has so often been referred to in this House. It is permissible to open the school with the Lord's Prayer and it is also permissible after half-past three in the afternoon to have religious instruction. But that can only be given in case the parents themselves petition for it and the trustees consent to it. In such case a minister or priest may teach from half-past three to four o'clock, but, it is specially provided that any scholar may absent himself from this teaching if his parents so desire, and also that any scholar who may be proficient in religious teaching shall not have his marks counted to his advantage in the general total. We also find that the university which they have by recent legislation decided to establish in the Northwest shall be strictly non-sectarian in principle and that no religious dogma or creed shall be taught and no religious test shall be required of any student or other person, so that, as I have pointed out, the system in vogue in the Canadian Northwest is not only a non-sectarian system, but I might also say a system that is completely divorced from any religious teaching.

It seems to me, Sir that description warrants us in saying that the Northwest Territories to-day possess the ideal system of education as compared with any to be found elsewhere in the Dominion of Canada. I know of no province in our wide Dominion where there is a legalized system of education superior to that which I have just described from the speeches of these two hon. gentlemen and from my own investigation.

Now, I wish to apply some other tests to the quality and character of the educational system which prevails in the Northwest Territories, and to illustrate the extraordinary growth of education in that portion of Canada. In 1898, there were 509 schools. In 1904, just six years later, the number had more than doubled, having increased to 1,235. And yet we are informed that to-day there are really only twelve separate schools in the entire Northwest Territories, two of them being Protestant schools. All the schools, separate as well as public, have regularly and properly licensed teachers. We judge of the efficiency of the schools of a country by the curriculum that is taught in them and by the character of the teachers who teach in them. The curriculum of the public schools of the Northwest is of the highest type and equal, in point of standard, to that of any province in the Dominion. The efficiency and capability of the teachers is beyond question. There the salaries of teachers are the highest of any paid in Canada. The elementary teachers in the Territories receive from \$40 to \$45 a month for their services. In the province from which I come a teacher in a similar school can not earn more than