

Newfoundland

Does anyone wish to increase the disunity already existing in this country?

In the sixth place, alarming things are being said or written.

We, in Quebec, wish to make Canada a united country, seeking first to further Canadian interests. We want Canadians, of whatever origin, to think as Canadians. Now here is what I read in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on July 28 last, concerning the entry of Newfoundland into confederation:

(Text):

On balance it might be said the island is the gainer out of union. Certainly the standard of living will be raised; services will be improved; the isolation of the island ended. As part of a larger unit, Newfoundland's flimsy economy will be strengthened. But the bargain is not all onesided. Canada also stands to gain. Her population is increased by 350,000 English-speaking stock;—

(Translation):

This denotes views that should give us food for thought.

Considering that the province of Quebec is a minority in this country, that our rights, more particularly those mentioned in section 133 of the British North America Act, are at the mercy of a majority in the house, according to the view expressed by the Prime Minister, which view is apparently shared by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) but not by myself, there is cause for concern over the protection of our rights, with the arrival of seven new members who will be subservient to their views rather than to the national interest. Furthermore, they are being allowed six senators, while Quebec, with a population at least ten times greater, will only have twenty-four; in proportion to her population, our province should have sixty. The newcomers are in an infinitely better position than the fathers of confederation. And thus, to a certain extent, we would leave in their hands the fate of our rights, guaranteed though they be by the pact of 1867. A small guarantee it is if we recall how the majority in the Manitoba provincial legislature annihilated the guarantees provided in the Act of Union of 1870, notwithstanding the provisions of sections 22 and 23 of the said act which read as follows:

(Text):

Section 22. (1) Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law or practice in the province at the union.

(Translation):

Section 23 reads as follows:

(Text):

Section 23. Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the houses of the legislature, and both those

[Mr. Raymond (Beauharnois-Laprairie).]

languages shall be used in the respective records and journals of those houses; and either of those languages may be used by any person or in any pleading or process, in or issuing from any court of Canada established under the British North America Act, 1867, or in or from all or any of the courts of the province. The acts of the legislature shall be printed and published in both those languages.

(Translation):

Now, in 1890, the Manitoba legislature violated this constitution by passing the two acts I shall mention. I have here the 1890 Manitoba statutes, and I quote from two chapters, one of which deals with the abolition of Catholic schools.

(Text):

We find in the statutes of Manitoba, 1890, chapter 14, an act to provide that the English language shall be the official language of the province of Manitoba. Section 1 reads as follows:

Any statute or law to the contrary notwithstanding, the English language only shall be used in the records and journals of the house of assembly for the province of Manitoba, and in any pleadings or process in or issuing from any court in the province of Manitoba. The acts of the legislature of the province of Manitoba need only be printed and published in the English language.

(Translation):

That dealt with the abolition of French. As for Catholic schools, chapter 38 of the same statute provides as follows:

(Text):

In cases where, before the coming into force of this act, Catholic school districts have been established as in the next preceding section mentioned, such Catholic school districts shall, upon the coming into force of this act, cease to exist . . .

(Translation):

That is how the majority makes a clean sweep of the rights guaranteed minorities by a constitutional act.

This not only gives us food for thought but shows how important it is for the people of Quebec to oppose any amendment to the 1867 agreement, as planned, without the consent of the provinces.

In closing, I point out, with regret, how unfortunate it is that the Canadian representatives mainly concerned with negotiating the terms of union should have been, at the same time, members of the privy council of Great Britain. No one can serve two masters. Great Britain's interests are not those of Canada.

I will say no more about this for the time being because I do not want to delay the vote on this resolution and on the amendment submitted.

(Text):

Mr. J. H. Dickey (Halifax): Perhaps some small addition to this debate from one sitting in the very back benches may be acceptable