

the province of Ontario have no separate school at all.

They have the right under the law of the province to establish those schools if they wish, but they do not desire them or care for them. Let me give a list of the towns in and near the county of Simcoe where there are no separate schools. There are none in the following towns: Uxbridge, Aurora, Bradford, Gravenhurst, Midland, Staynor, Collingwood; and when I go outside of the county I find such towns as these: Simcoe, Port Hope, Brampton, Bracebridge, Orangeville, Meaford, Wingham, Clinton, Brussels, Exeter and Aylmer. I could go on through every county in Ontario and show that the separate school system is not making headway in that province, but the Roman Catholics, as well as Protestants, are realizing the benefit and better effect of not having separate schools. In Ontario we have no such schools as separate high schools. Roman Catholics and Protestants, boys and girls, alike, go to the same high school, and the best of fellowships are engendered there, and yet these hon. gentlemen opposite are to-day going to force on this western country—a country that does not know its own requirements or the class of people that are going to populate it—a system that will have the effect of weakening the efficiency of the schools in every section. If the ordinance goes into effect, should there be four families in any neighbourhood and twelve children, they will be entitled to establish a separate school in that district. What do we find regarding the number of separate schools in Ontario? I have here a list given in the report of the education department for the year of 1904. It shows that in that province, outside the incorporated towns and cities, there are 254 separate schools, 70 of which are in the French county of Prescott and Russell alone. Nearly one-third of the whole number of separate schools in the townships are in one county. Go down to Essex, where there is a large French population, and you will there find 23 separate schools. In Renfrew, where there is a large Catholic population, there are also 12 schools; and in the district of Nipissing there are 16, so that in the province of Ontario to-day this system of separate schools is not being looked on favourably.

I propose to vote for the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Borden) for several reasons. First, because this government has no mandate from the people to bring in this legislation. It was not an issue in the last election and ought to be made an issue before being adopted, because it is a matter of great import. I propose to vote against it, in the second place, because it will be injurious to the well-being of the Northwest Territories, which to-day are only in their infancy, the future population of which is unknown, and

Mr. BENNETT.

I believe that we should not fasten on that country any such system. I am further going to vote for the amendment, principally and primarily, because I do not believe in the separate school system in Ontario or any other province. I do not wish to be understood as saying that I am in favour of doing away with the separate schools in Ontario. They are here as a matter of right, under the constitution, and are here to stay. But I for one shall protest by my vote against passing any legislation which will place in the great Northwest Territories, among the millions who must inhabit them in the years to come, a school system which will be a matter of regret to those people and of reproach to those who fastened it upon them, if the vote of this House should be in favour of this Bill, as I fear and regret it will be.

M. A. K. MACLEAN (Lunenburg). Mr. Speaker, in rising to address this House I must express my diffidence because of the fact that this measure has been discussed so long and by so many hon. members. But nevertheless I desire to express my views concerning it before casting my vote. But before proceeding with my argument, I wish to refer for a moment or two to the remarks that fell from the hon. gentleman who has just sat down (Mr. Bennett). I hardly know that hon. gentleman well enough to understand why he should waste so much time in commiserating with the Liberal party over what he deems to be their troubles. Surely if commiseration is needed by any party it is required by the party he is following to-day. I suppose that in the history of party government in this country or any English-speaking country, there never was an instance of such a lack of discipline, such a violation of the theory of party government, as is evidenced here to-day. That party stands without a leader, without a policy, with every one of its supporters going whichever way he chooses. Yet still my hon. friend wastes time pointing out the weaknesses which he sees in the government supporters. I am sure we do not resent the good feeling and the interest which the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) evinces towards us, but I would like to console him by the assurance that the friends and supporters of the government are quite capable of taking care of themselves.

My hon. friend is rather exercised over the fact that several newspapers in Ontario are not favourable to the administration on this issue. Well, no doubt the Liberal party, as a party would be better pleased if every newspaper in the Dominion were supporting it; but we cannot get everything; and if it does happen that a newspaper here and there does oppose this measure, we must accept the situation. But if my hon. friend is so much agitated over the want of sup-