

control without being subject to counsel. That was a pretty hard thing for Mr. Tarte to agree to, but he agreed to it, and Mr. Sifton was comfortably installed as Minister of the Interior with full power to deal with the business of the department free from any control by counsel. Well, Mr. Sifton was eight years at the job, and if common repute is to be believed, he has made it pay pretty well, because he is now worth between one and two million dollars.

• Mr. DERBYSHIRE. Hear, hear.

Mr. TAYLOR. And my hon. friend from Brockville will endorse this and thinks it all right that a man with a salary of eight thousand dollars a year should after eight years be worth one or two million dollars. The hon. gentleman approves of that and would equally approve of every job this government may bring down, no matter how bad it may be. No doubt he also approved of the commission of one, consisting of Mr. Tarte, which was appointed to deal with these three men. Mr. Tarte then came back to Mr. Greenway and Mr. Greenway said to him: My treasury is pretty well depleted. You have a large school fund down there that belongs to the province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, because when the lands were set apart for school purposes the law provided that according as these lands were sold, the money should be funded and the interest thereon used for school purposes. Mr. Greenway said: You have a treasury fund, vote me \$300,000 out of that fund. Mr. Tarte said: I will do it; and legislation was passed, this House misappropriating these \$300,000 out of this trust fund and handing it over to the province of Manitoba. Mr. Greenway then made some modifications in the law, a bargain was drawn up, signed by Mr. Sifton, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Greenway, and the Prime Minister then claimed credit for having settled the school question effectively for all time to come.

Mr. BARKER. With his sunny smile.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, but at the expense of the country in the way I have just described. Then we came on to last fall when a general election had to be held. The government felt that the country was going against them, partially on account of their not having carried out their promise on the Manitoba school question and partly because of the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme and many other unfulfilled promises regarding protection to native industries. Something therefore had to be done. The Northwest were clamouring for autonomy, and the government up to that time had refused it, knowing that the school question would be raised. The Prime Minister knew he had not carried out his agreement with the hierarchy in reference to Manitoba and that they would not support them unless they granted separate schools to the Northwest

Mr. TAYLOR.

when provincial autonomy was given to them. So a bargain had to be made, and it was made.

The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) in his addresses on this Bill stated that he had read the speech of the First Minister and the speech of the leader of the opposition and he leaned to the opinion held by the leader of the opposition, but he put aside both these opinions and appealed to the man on the street. He cast aside the constitution and everything else. It was simply a matter of half an hour's religious instruction in the school after school hours, and he asked the opinion of the man in the street, the common elector. But what will the man on the street say, in view of what has transpired. He will say that the whole thing is a job from beginning to end, simply a play on the stage with a farce attached. He will say that the Prime Minister and the ex-Minister of the Interior put their heads together and said, we will go to the country but we will be defeated unless we grant autonomy to the Northwest. But, said the First Minister, if we grant autonomy to the Northwest, we shall have to grant separate schools, because I have not carried out my promise to my clergy with reference to the Manitoba school question, and I cannot count on their support unless, in granting autonomy to the new provinces, we also grant separate schools. It was agreed that the school question should be included, but this was to be kept private until after the election. The ex-minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) hurried off to take charge of the elections in Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia; and he promised the people in the west that autonomy should be granted, and said: You have my past record on the school question as an indication of what will be done in that matter. And the Prime Minister hid himself down to the meeting of the bishops at Three Rivers and said: We are going to grant autonomy to the Northwest, and we will make provision for separate schools, but the matter must be kept quiet in the meantime.

Mr. BUREAU. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) will allow me a question, I would like to ask him at what time Sir Wilfrid Laurier came down to meet the bishop at Three Rivers?

Mr. TAYLOR. At the conference they had, just before the election.

Mr. BUREAU. I was inquiring from the bishop of Three Rivers as to the truth of what I saw in the Toronto 'Sunday Sun' and he denies it in toto.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have seen it published in a great many papers, but I have never seen it denied. This is the first denial of it that I have ever heard. The result of the election proves that there was a bargain and that three-quarters, and in some of the provinces nine-tenths, of the Roman Catho-