

that when Bernier, pushing through regions of thick-ribbed ice, awakens with the early rising, rosy fingered dawn to find himself farthest north, ties his dog team to the end of the pole and looks aloft, he will find seated on the top some reverend gentleman administering the last sacred rites to an unfortunate creature who would withhold from the minority of that frozen region the rights which their forefathers, now, like the beaver, the buffalo and the redman, becoming extinct, had inherited from their prehistoric ancestors; and let us trust that if he returns by the overland route through the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, he will find no trace remaining of the religious questions that are stirring the people of this country to-day, but all living together as one harmonious whole and worshipping a universal God, who is the Father and Maker of all.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to my own county and to the neighbouring counties, as it was there that the Protestant minority, before confederation, started the agitation in favour of separate schools in the province of Quebec. I find in the history of Compton county, page 49, that the following resolutions touching the rights of the Protestant minority were adopted by the county council, and these resolutions show that Compton county at least was alive to the interests of the Protestant minority:

On June 13, 1866, it was moved by Councillor Chaddock, seconded by Councillor Lebourveau, and resolved, that the warden and secretary-treasurer petition parliament at its present session to the effect that previous to the confederation of the North American provinces the rights of the Protestant minority in Lower Canada, as respects municipal and school matters, be guarded and protected in such a manner that hereafter, should confederation take place, the majority may not have power to interfere with the action of the Protestant minority on these points.

At the forty-fifth quarterly session, September 12, 1866, Councillor L. Pope moved the following resolution seconded by Councillor Lebourveau:

That the warden and secretary-treasurer shall, on behalf of this council, petition the Imperial parliament to the effect that the rights of the English-speaking Protestant community in Lower Canada be protected by the introduction into the constitution of Lower Canada of clauses therein similar to those introduced into the last session of the House of Assembly, but withdrawn, referring to educational matters. And that the Protestants of Lower Canada be allowed the management of their own schools and tax of contributing their money to the support of Protestant schools only, if they see fit, and that a committee consisting of the warden, secretary-treasurer and Councillor Robinson prepare such petition. Carried unanimously.

On March 13, 1867, the warden read and presented the copy of a despatch from the

Mr. WORTHINGTON.

Secretary of State for the Colonies acknowledging the receipt of a petition through the Hon. A. T. Galt, addressed to Her Majesty, the Queen, and forwarded to him by the Governor General's secretary, for the information of the council and municipal authorities of the county of Compton. This petition stated that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would see that the subject of education for the minority should be thoroughly discussed with the representatives of British North America. At this time the eastern townships was the English speaking portion of the province of Quebec and it was there that the agitation in favour of separate schools for Protestants in Quebec originated. I am only reading from the history of Compton county because it is the only one available, but similar resolutions must have come from the other English counties of Stanstead, Richmond, Brome, Shefford and others. And, Sir, if these people to-day thought that the Catholic minority itself, of the Northwest was crying for these same educational rights they would be the first to offer them. In my own case, I go back to the old court house in the town of Sherbrooke, which is the centre of the county I have the honour to represent, and find in 1867, Sir A. T. Galt, the representative of the county at that time, coming back to his electors to explain the terms of confederation, and insisting that when Quebec entered the union that the rights of the Protestant minority of that province shall be respected and maintained in perpetuity. Sir A. T. Galt said:

Mr. Galt, who, on rising, was received with great applause, addressed the chairman and said the practice had obtained in England of late years for the leading politicians and those charged with the administration of the government to meet their constituents and the public during the recess of parliament and discuss with them the questions then occupying the public mind. He believed that great advantage had arisen from the practice of instructing the public with reference to the question then before it, from the fact that when parliament afterwards met it had the intelligent ideas of the people brought to bear upon its deliberations.

I commend these remarks to the government, because had they followed the practice which Mr. Galt says existed amongst the English parliamentarians, and if they had taken this question to the people before bringing it to the House all the trouble which has arisen might have been spared the country. I heard one member of the government state the other day in connection with the School Bill that we were making Canadian history. I can only say that if the time of the House for the last few weeks has been taken up in making history, then the next time we want history we had better get it ready-made. Sir A. T. Galt after discussing the terms of confeder-