

and it will thus render at least improbable any of those complications which have harassed the political discussions of the last few years. With the form of government settled in advance, and with the machinery provided for its coming into practical operation without further legislation, and by the force simply of advancing settlement any immigrant settling in the country will do so with the full knowledge of the institutions under which he is to live, and will assume, therefore, a voluntary allegiance to those institutions. But if it is wise to do, as Mr. Mackenzie proposes doing, then it would certainly be wise to allow ample time for the consideration of the measure by which he proposes to do it. The establishment of the system of government which in the future is to prevail in these vast territories is a work which cannot be other than difficult. At the very outset we had evidence of how important this delay is. In the Bill, as prepared, the government had omitted all reference to the important subject of education, and all provision for the avoidance of those difficulties which at this moment are doing so much harm in New Brunswick. True, after it was printed Mr. Mackenzie discovered the omission and submitted a manuscript clause to cover it.

The 'Gazette' wanted time to consider the measure; but it approved of its principle, and even, as may be seen, of the clause establishing separate schools. According to that newspaper other matters such as those dealt with in the clause relative to separate schools had possibly been overlooked, and for that reason it wanted the discussion of the measure to be postponed until the session of 1876.

Under the heading 'The Work of the session,' the 'National' on the date of April 10th, 1875, referred once more to the question in the following terms:

Peace is restored in the Northwest Territories, and hence it has deemed necessary to organize them. The government has set to work at once, and to-day there is in our statute books, an Act which grants to that vast territory a constitution providing for its immediate requirements. The headquarters of the government will be Fort Pelly. Those of our readers who follow closely what appears in our columns will remember that in the constitution granted to these provinces is included—and we called attention to the fact some time ago—a clause establishing separate schools. However, Conservative newspapers in the province of Quebec have refrained from commenting on the subject. Of course, they refer to the policy of the government only when an opportunity offers for abuse; and one of the leading organs of the Conservative party, the Toronto 'Leader,' has viciously assailed the hon. Mr. Mackenzie and the Catholics, by contending that the Prime Minister was being led by the latter who were not worthy of the rope of the hangman. When we read such stuff published in a Conservative newspaper, we cannot but be surprised at witnessing in our times this alliance between Catholics and Orangemen.

On the first of April, 1875, in the course of a violent article against French dominion—
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ation, the 'Daily Telegraph,' of St. John, N.B., stated:

It is owing to their influence that we see the best lands in Manitoba reserved for a few half-breeds, and the new province of Saskatchewan saddled with the perpetual curse of a separate school system.

The Ottawa 'Citizen' did not at the time make such a fuss, as it is doing to-day. On the 9th of April, 1875, the day following the prorogation of parliament, it expressed itself in these terms:

The Bill to amend and consolidate the laws respecting the Northwest Territory received very little opposition, the chief objection to it involved a very large annual outlay for officials, &c.

Was 'the chief objection' separate schools? No. In 1875 and 1878, at the time of the general election, the Mackenzie government was accused of having prematurely taken up the task of organizing the Northwest Territories, with a view to finding positions for their friends.

But I shall request hon. members to look into the 'Mail,' which was the organ of Sir John Macdonald at the time, and, to their great satisfaction, no doubt, they will find that the legislation of 1875 was highly approved of by the great Toronto newspaper. 'Tempora mutantur!'

The 'Mail' of April 19th, 1875, approved of the Mackenzie Act in the following terms:

SEPARATE SCHOOLS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

It is amazing that to some men experience brings no wisdom. There is Mr. George Brown who used to ride so high a Protestant horse in the old days in Upper Canada. He wound up his agitation against separate schools by guaranteeing their continued existence and support by means of a clause of the British North America Act based upon one of the resolutions of the Quebec conference to which he was a consenting party. By their Northwest Territories Bill the present government provide that separate schools may be established in those Territories. The proposal we regard as eminently wise, and with the experience which he had had, Mr. Brown should have been the last man to oppose it. Yet he had not only opposed the principle itself, but appealed to the British North America Act as containing sound legal objections to the course proposed to be taken by the government. He said: He thought this provision was quite contrary to the British North America Act. Nothing was more clear than that each province should have absolute control over education. He thought that was the only principle on which this Union Act could continue. If the Dominion government interfered with local matters we should get into inextricable confusion with the provinces. The safe way for us was to let each province suit itself in such matters. This country was filled by people of all classes and creeds, and there would be no end of confusion if each class had to have its own peculiar school system. It had been said this clause was put in for the protection of the Protestants against the Catho-