

framed in the province of Manitoba within a year afterwards by the very men who were dealing with this Bill of Rights and who had received a report from these delegates; and that Act provided for separate schools in the province of Manitoba. It would be strange if both these points could have got by chance into the Manitoba Act, an Act which was the result of elaborate negotiations with the delegates. The other thing is this: This Bill of Rights No. 3 asks that the province shall be styled and known as the province of Assiniboia. Bill of Rights No. 4 suggested no name, merely that the province was styled the province of Manitoba. Just in passing, let me refer also to a letter written from the Secretary of State of the Dominion to the Reverend Archbishop of St. Boniface. I do not want to weary the House by quoting this letter in full. It begins as follows:

Department of Secretary of State for the provinces.

February 16th, 1870.

The Very Reverend the Bishop of St. Boniface:

My Lord,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to acknowledge and thank you for the promptitude with which you placed your services at the disposal of this government, and undertook a winter voyage and journey that you might, by your presence and influence, aid in the repression of the unlooked-for disturbances which had broken out in the Northwest.

The letter goes on to state that there is inclosed a copy of instructions given to Hon. William Macdougall; a copy of further instructions addressed to Mr. Macdougall on the 7th of November; a copy of a letter of instructions to the Very Reverend Vicar General Thibault on the 4th December; copy of a proclamation issued by His Excellency; copy of the letter to Donald A. Smith; letter of instruction to Donald A. Smith, and several other documents. Here is the portion of the letter to which I wish to call special attention:

Your lordship will perceive in these papers the policy which it was and is the desire of the Canadian government to establish in the Northwest. The people of Canada have no interest in the erection of institutions in Rupert's Land, which public opinion condemns; nor would they wish to see a fine race of people trained to discontent and insubordination by the pressure of an unwise system of government, to which British subjects are unaccustomed or averse. They look hopefully forward to the period when institutions, moulded upon those which the other provinces enjoy, may be established.

What was the meaning of that letter? To my mind it was that the people of Canada looked forward to the period when institutions would be established in Manitoba giving to the minority their rights. Because, he immediately follows it up by saying:

Mr. PRINGLE.

And in the meantime would deeply regret if the civil and religious liberties of the whole population were not adequately protected by such temporary arrangements as it may be prudent at present to make.

Now, I say, they did follow it up immediately afterwards in the province of Manitoba by passing a school law which gave separate schools to the minority. The minority was not then a Catholic minority, but Protestant. And, in reading history—though I may read it wrong—at that time it looked as if the province of Manitoba would be a French Catholic province; and the English-speaking people were as anxious to preserve the rights of the English Protestant minority as the Catholic minority now can be.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Pringle) give me the name of the writer of the letter he has quoted and also to whom it was sent?

Mr. PRINGLE. I have already stated that. It was from the Secretary of State, Joseph Howe to Archbishop Taché.

Mr. BERGERON. In what year?

Mr. PRINGLE. That letter was written on February 16th, 1870. We all know that Archbishop Taché had been visiting Rome, that he came back to this country, that he interviewed Sir John A. Macdonald and other gentlemen who were at that time at the head of the government and that he was immediately sent to the Northwest Territories for the purpose of bringing about a reconciliation among the people who felt that they had some grievances in that country. But, Sir, the late Sir John A. Macdonald considered that the Manitoba Act gave to the minority their rights. I have always contended he did and I find in a work—I do not know how authentic it is, but I am bound to consider that it is authentic—a letter of the late Sir John Macdonald written to a Conservative friend in the province of Manitoba at the time that our Liberal friends were taking away the rights from the minority in that province. This letter is an unqualified opinion in regard to the effect of the educational clauses. I take this letter—as I say I cannot vouch for its authenticity—from a work called 'Krib's Manitoba School Question,' page 32. The letter was written in November, 1889, and is as follows:

You ask me for advice as to the course you should take upon the vexed question of separate schools in your province. There is, it seems to me, but one course open to you. By the Manitoba Act the provisions of the British North America Act, section 93, respecting laws passed for the protection of minorities in educational matters are made applicable to Manitoba, and cannot be changed, for, by the Imperial Act confirming the establishment of the new provinces, 34 and 35 Vic., ch. 28, sec. 6, it is provided, that it shall not be competent