

people of the country. Therefore, am I not justified in saying that this is an attack upon the public schools, and that it means the destruction of the public school system? Let me give you an example. In L'Orignal not very far from Ottawa, for the last twelve or thirteen years there has been a public school. During all that time it has been under the control of three Roman Catholic trustees composing the school board, and in all that time the Protestant children have attended that school without any interference or without any forcing upon them of the dogma of any church.

Mr. PROULX. Is my hon. friend aware that the Protestants have established a separate school at L'Orignal?

Mr. SPROULE. I know that and I might tell my hon. friend (Mr. Proulx) a little more about it that perhaps would not be very creditable. But, I am now dealing with this question. We will suppose that in the Northwest they have a public school that every Protestant child has a right to attend without any interference with his religion and without any teaching of religious dogma. Suppose that this school to which I have referred at L'Orignal had been in the Northwest Territories and that these trustees who were Roman Catholics had declared that nothing but the dogma of the Roman Catholic church should be taught there; what would the rights of the Protestant child be in the school? The school would be converted practically into a separate school.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No.

Mr. SPROULE. Practically it will be controlled not as the public schools of Ontario are, because in the public schools of Ontario there is no religious dogma taught and every child has the right to go there whether he is Protestant or Roman Catholic although these Roman Catholic trustees manage and control that school, for it is controlled under the law governing public schools.

Mr. SCOTT. The public school in the Northwest Territories may be entirely different. If this is merely perpetuating the state of affairs that is existing now the public school is entirely different. In our public schools at the present moment under the ordinances that we are asked to perpetuate religious dogma may be taught from 3.30 to 4 o'clock.

Mr. SPROULE. I know all about that, but I think I am still justified in my statement that this is an attack upon the public school, because, if you can establish that principle in the two new provinces in the Northwest Territories, and if it is afterwards extended to the Peace River district and the Mackenzie River district as the proposed Bill for government of these Territories provide and it is now in existence

Mr. SPROULE.

in the Yukon, how long will it be before the same right will be demanded in Ontario and in the other provinces?

Mr. CONMEE. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he would permit me to make a statement in regard to his remark?

Mr. SPROULE. If the hon. gentleman wants to make a speech he may do so after I am through, but if he wants to ask a question I will answer it.

Mr. CONMEE. I am not going to make a speech. Will the hon. gentleman permit me to ask him a question?

Mr. SPROULE. Yes.

Mr. CONMEE. The hon. gentleman has stated two or three times that there is no religion taught in the public schools of Ontario—

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. gentleman ask the question and not make a statement?

Mr. CONMEE—and that there is no religious instruction in the public schools of Ontario. Is he not aware that there is religion taught in the public schools of Ontario and that the regulations permit the teaching of religion exactly as they do in the schools in the Northwest, for half an hour in the day?

Mr. SPROULE. I can tell the hon. gentleman that if he ever went to school, which I doubt very much, within the last thirty years, he would know that there is no religious instruction given in them. I have attended them and I know that what I say is true. I have addressed them over and over again, I know what is the custom in Ontario and I know that my statement is exactly correct.

Mr. CONMEE. I will tell the hon. gentleman this—

Mr. SPROULE. I have the floor and I intend to keep it. Let the hon. gentleman content himself until I am through.

Mr. CONMEE. You have not answered my question.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not want to be interrupted. Mr. Chairman, I have the floor.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. member for East Grey has the floor.

Mr. SPROULE. I say that it is the right of every child to attend a public school without having religious dogmas forced upon him, but that if this passes it will not be his right in these new provinces. There will be no public schools to go to, no schools except those which are dominated over by whatever is the religious faith of the trustees, and the children will be practically driven out of the public schools as they were out of the public school in L'Orignal when the Roman Catholic trustees turned around and sold the school to themselves for a