

theory of provincial rights must be limited and restricted. But in the opinion of some, the educational clauses in the Bill ought not to be numbered as one of the exemptions. We, on this, claim that in so far as the clause restricts the power of the provincial legislatures to take away from the minority their right to have their children given half an hour's religious instruction in the school, which is really the only restriction, that it is not only justifiable, but is a commendable exception to the theoretical doctrine of provincial rights, and one which makes for peace, harmony and unity in our new provinces. And as parliament, in my opinion, has the power to give to these provinces whatever constitution it likes, and as we in the Territories do not want a school question for a foot-ball in provincial politics, this parliament ought to give us a plain and clear law which we can all understand, and which will make provision for an efficient high grade national school system, and at the same time respect the conscientious principles of the minority to have their children given religious instruction in the school. Sir, in conclusion, I would like to call the attention of the eastern members to the fact that when the Northwest began to develop, the Dominion began to prosper, and the more it developed, the more the Dominion prospered, and I believe that prosperity will continue and increase under the new constitutions about to be established, and we are anxious that nothing be done to create strife and friction among the different nationalities and religions in the new provinces, but that we be given a law in reference to education which is of our own making, and one peculiarly suited to us, and one which gives us the greatest possible freedom; as the trustees of any district, and therefore the people who elect them have all to say whether there be any religious teaching in the school, and if there is any, whether it shall be Protestant or Roman Catholic.

Mr. A. A. McLEAN. I beg to move, on behalf of the hon. member for Dundas (Mr. Broder) the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, House adjourned at 5.25 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 25, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

### ACCIDENT TO STEAMER 'SCOUT.'

Mr. F. D. MONK. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the

government if, in the appointment of a commission to inquire into the cause of the explosion at Kingston on the steamer 'Scout,' the government has secured the services of an expert? The matter has been brought to my attention by a number of people interested in the manufacture of carbide and in the sale of acetylene gas as an illuminant. They think very properly that an explosion of acetylene gas just when that substance is beginning to be extensively used as an illuminant is calculated to do serious injury to that industry. Their pretension is that acetylene gas submitted to a pressure of over 30 pounds becomes extremely dangerous, and that where it is submitted to a pressure of 180 pounds, as I am told it was in the case of the accident at Kingston, the danger is much increased, and such would be the effect, not only with acetylene, but other gases as well. They, therefore, consider it very important that an expert, a man quite conversant with the uses to which acetylene gas may be put, should be joined to that commission of inquiry, in order that the facts may be fully brought out and made widely known, and that this industry, which is now being considerably developed, should not suffer because an accident happened under circumstances they consider were calculated to produce the explosion that did occur.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am sorry that my hon. friend and colleague the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is not in his seat, but I shall report to him the observations of my hon. friend.

Mr. A. BRODER. Does the government intend doing anything for the families of those who were killed? Two of the families are in the town in which I live, and in circumstances which ought to receive the attention of the government.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am not in a position to answer my hon. friend to-day. We shall await the report of the commission before coming to any determination.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR. Who were the parties forming the commission of inquiry into the accident on the steamer 'Scout'? I understand that they are all three officials of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand so.

Mr. TAYLOR. I think the inquiry should be extended. The constituents I have the honour to represent are very largely interested. Within an area of half a mile square, and close to the town of Gananoque, there are three of these immense tanks lying out in the open air, exposed to any person who may come along and tamper with them. No person is in charge of them. The explosion that took place at Kingston was that of a small buoy, not one-fourth the size of these immense tanks lying exposed