

day, it is confirming a law which the people of those Territories have themselves passed. If they are satisfied, and they evidently are, why should the people in other portions of the Dominion complain? Then, Sir, in 1875 the Territorial government was created. On that occasion, the definite proposition was laid down by the parliament of Canada that denominational schools should exist in that country. It is not necessary for me to repeat the statements from the Hon. George Brown and Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake and Sir John Macdonald with regard to that matter. Suffice to say that one and all of them declared that when that legislation of 1875 was passed granting denominational schools to the Northwest Territories, that was to be the law for all time to come.

Mr. SPROULE. That is not what Christopher Robinson says.

Mr. GERMAN. I am not responsible for what Mr. Robinson said. He is a leading lawyer in this country, but he was very careful to qualify his opinion by saying that he had not had time to sufficiently consider the matter to give a decided opinion. What I maintain is that the people of the Northwest, by reason of the provisions of the British North America Act and the Act of 1875 creating a territorial legislature, have the right to insist that all the privileges with regard to schools which exist by virtue of these Acts shall be perpetuated. If they have that right, that is to me sufficient reason why I should support this Bill.

My hon. friend who has just sat down (Mr. Kemp) quoted very largely from the 'Globe.' I notice that his speech was very largely made up of quotations from that paper. I am glad he quotes the 'Globe,' and hope he will read it continually because it is about the only sensible newspaper in Toronto to-day.

Mr. KEMP. I read it every day.

Mr. GERMAN. Quite right, and I should be glad that my hon. friend would take heed of what it says and govern himself accordingly. He read very largely from the 'Globe' newspaper. Well, the 'Globe' does not control this parliament or the people of this Dominion. True, it is a power in the country, but the gentleman who writes the articles in the 'Globe' is just as likely to be mistaken as I am; and I venture to say that he would give me, as I give him, credit for sincerity and for expressing the views I honestly entertain and believe to be right and proper.

I do not intend to occupy at any length the time of this House. We have had innumerable speeches. We have had this matter discussed thoroughly and intelligently, and I believe that the people have fairly made up their minds as to what should be done. At any rate I believe that parliament has made up its mind as to what it will do. We have had hon. gentlemen op-

posite contending that the Liberal party is inconsistent on this question, that formerly we stood for provincial rights and inscribed that principle on our banner, and that we are now dragging that banner in the dust and going back on all our past records. Well, Mr. Speaker, I venture to deny that assertion. I say that the Liberal party to-day is acting consistently with its past history, and that it is the Conservative party which is a sinner in this respect. It was the Conservative party who established separate schools in this country assisted by the people in the province of Quebec. That party is now going back on its record. What was formerly the position of the Liberal party in regard to this matter? We know that the Hon. Geo. Brown, in the old legislative assembly of Canada, opposed the system of separate schools with all his force. That principle, however, was adopted by the Canadian legislature and became law. When confederation was brought about, Mr. Brown joined the coalition government, which adopted the principle of separate schools as a part and parcel of the Confederation Act. To that principle Mr. Brown gave his adhesion because it had been adopted in Canada and he felt it would be a wrench to do away with it. The Liberal party have lived up to that doctrine ever since. In 1896 when the Conservative party endeavoured to force separate schools on the unwilling province of Manitoba, the Liberal party objected. Why did they object? Because they stood for provincial rights. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had decided that the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba did not have the right to separate schools, but the Conservative party endeavoured to force these schools upon that province. The Liberal party, standing by its record, declared against that invasion of provincial rights and it went to the country and was successful.

Mr. SPROULE. Why do you not stand up for provincial rights now?

Mr. GERMAN. So we do, and it is because we are standing by the principle of provincial rights that we are supporting this Bill.

Mr. SPROULE. The people out there do not think so.

Mr. GERMAN. The people in Edmonton think so. They say that we are standing by the principle of provincial rights. The Conservative government endeavoured to force separate schools on the province of Manitoba and we opposed it, because we were opposed to having a system forced on a province which the people there were not bound to accept. A true regard for provincial rights consists in safeguarding the rights, not only of the majority, but likewise of the minority. One individual is equally entitled to have his legal