

tablishment, maintenance and administration of schools.

I read the following resolution of the Winnipeg Ministerial Association :

Therefore be it resolved, that the Ministerial Association of Winnipeg respectfully protests against this legislation proposed, and expresses the hope that the educational clauses referred to as objectionable may be expunged from the Bill, thus leaving the new provinces perfectly free to develop their own educational policy.

I read from a newspaper :

Orange protest.—Eastern Ontario Orange Grand Lodge pronounces on the Autonomy Bill. An invasion of provincial rights. The provinces must be absolutely free.

And in a part of this document it says :

We have strong reason to think that this restrictive legislation has been asked for by a certain organization in a province far removed from the Northwest, an organization that has never stopped during nearly the last thousand years grasping for power to curtail the rights of the people.

I read here a document which has been directed to myself. It is from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West and says :

And so we are called upon to-day to enter our earnest protest against the unjustifiable action of the bishops striving to shackle the west for all time in matters of education. We desire to go on record, as citizens of this country, uncontrolled by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, who have been on record for forty years, in favour of a system of non-denominational public schools, where every child shall secure a good secular education at the general expense, and where the religious belief of the pupils will be fully respected.

This right worshipful grand lodge opposes as dangerous to the peace, order and good government of the Dominion the adoption of this principle in the constitution of the proposed new provinces. We stand firmly against the endowment of denominational schools as the worst, because the most subtle form, in which church and state can be united. This is accomplished by the Autonomy Bill providing that 'the public money of the provinces appropriated by the legislature in aid of education and the funds derived from the sale of public lands set apart solely for public school purposes shall hereafter be divided indiscriminately between the public and the separate schools.'

There seems to be some objection on the part of some of these gentlemen who have so petitioned parliament against separate schools. I admit that I, too, hold similar objections, but these gentlemen do not seem to be aware that those separate schools have been in existence in the Northwest Territories for 20 years to my knowledge; that they are in existence because of legislation passed unanimously 30 years ago by this parliament, as the leader of the opposition said, and repeated and reiterated, subject to repeal or amendment by this parliament at any time during the past 30 years, and there never was a word of pro-

test from the Ministerial Association of Winnipeg, from the Orange Grand Lodge of eastern or western Ontario, from the preceptory of the Black Knights of Ireland in Strathcona, nor from any of those other petitioners, during that whole 30 years during which it was in the power of this parliament to do away with this national outrage of separate schools in the Northwest. It is within the power of parliament to-day; it is not too late. But there is not a man here who will move, nor has there been a suggestion made to this House, that separate schools in the Northwest Territories should be abolished, not a word. Do these gentlemen really mean what they say or do they know what they say? Is this a demonstration of objection to separate schools or is it an attempt to wreck the Liberal government on a second school question? If this attack is honest, if it is against the separate schools and not against the French premier, it is in order for the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) and the gentlemen behind him to introduce a Bill into this parliament as they yet may do to abolish separate schools in the Northwest by repealing the section of the Northwest Act. I am against separate schools but I want some company in my position and I do not seem to be able to find it. It is not the first time I have been alone in this House, but I seem to be just as lonesome now as I ever was, notwithstanding all these petitions on this very interesting subject. These separate schools have been authorized in the Northwest Territories by Act of this parliament for 30 years at least and they have been in actual existence in the Northwest Territories for 20 years by Act or ordinance of the Northwest legislature. There has been no word of protest in parliament or out of parliament, there has been no word of petition in the Northwest legislature, or amongst the people against that provision.

Mr. A. A. McLEAN. Why do you not ask leave to introduce the Bill?

Mr. OLIVER. I want to know first whether I would get a seconder.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Try it. Try McCarthy.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE. Stick to the tunnel, McLean.

Mr. OLIVER. I say then that in view of the fact that these separate schools have been in existence for 20 years absolutely at the disposal of this parliament, without a word of objection from the legislature of the Northwest Territories or from the people of the Northwest Territories, it is not in order to send into this House such documents as have been sent in within the past month; to discuss this question as it has been discussed in the newspapers of this country. I say that the men who are doing