

if it were we would not have touched it. It is no mere question of provincial interest.

You will notice there that they do not consider it to be a question of purely provincial interest. They say that 'it is no mere question of provincial interest.' It is a question that affects the whole Dominion and for that reason we have a right to deal with it and settle it for all time to come if we possibly can.

If it were, the provinces most concerned might safely be left to deal with it, and people outside might differ in view but be undisturbed in spirit. The question touches the whole Dominion.

The 'Christian Guardian,' a most important paper representing the Methodist Church, claims that this is not a provincial issue, but that it is a question that interests the whole Dominion and consequently this parliament has a right to deal with it.

The question touches the whole Dominion and touches the Dominion to the end of time. And it touches it essentially and vitally, touches it at the deepest core of its national and social life. It is the question as to whether, in the great and rapidly growing provinces of the Northwest, bound to have in another generation a population that will outbalance that of all the rest of Canada put together, there is to be fastened a demoralizing, disintegrating educational system, setting race against race, and creed against creed, neighbour against neighbour, and man against man. It is the question as to whether mediaevalism is to triumph over modernity, and narrow and arbitrary ecclesiasticism over personal liberty and popular government. It is the question as to whether we are to have in this free and democratic country a state church, and that church the Church of Rome. It is the question whether public funds are to be administered for the propagation of sectarian dogmas, and public men to become the puppets of an arrogant and aggressive hierarchy.

That is the real issue, and that alone. It is sought to confuse it with other issues, and to cover it up with arguments on these issues, as specious as they are ingenious.

Here is one of the leading papers of Canada trying to poison the minds of the people of Canada by saying that there is something different altogether being established and continued in the Northwest Territories from what there really is. I believe, Sir, that these newspapers throughout Canada deserve censure, and I have no doubt that they will be censured by the people of the country in the near future. I have here a resolution by the provincial master and members of the Orange Lodge of Ontario west. They are practically in the same position, and I do not think they are living up to the principles of the constitution at all, because they are trying to spread a wrong impression broadcast throughout the country. They say:

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.

What do they know about the bishops and their action in the west?

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 beliefs of the pupils will be fully respected.

We must also draw attention to the fact that the present parliament of the Dominion has no mandate from the people of Canada to adopt vital legislation of this kind. The electors had no opportunity to express themselves upon this issue in the late general elections.

Let me tell the House here what happened in the district that I represent. In 1890 I was representing a western Manitoba district in the Manitoba legislature, and in that district there were possibly not ten Catholic votes. A large proportion of the population were Orangemen. I supported the Manitoba public school law of 1890, and in 1892 I went back to the people for re-election, and what happened? Why, I was turned down and a man who opposed the Greenway government for passing that legislation was elected in my place. That was the answer I got at that time and my hon. friend (Mr. S. J. Jackson) who sits beside me was in a somewhat similar position, for instead of getting a majority of a couple of hundred as he used to get, he was elected by only one vote. In 1896, Mr. Boyd represented the district which I represent here to-day, and when the remedial legislation was before this parliament Mr. Boyd supported Sir Charles Tupper in trying to coerce Manitoba, in trying to establish in that province a system of what I say were Roman Catholic schools in earnest. Mr. Boyd went back to the people after leaving Ottawa and he was returned by a larger majority than ever, and not by the Catholic vote either, but by the Orange vote.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. What majority was Mr. Greenway returned by when you were turned down?

Mr. CRAWFORD. He had a good fair majority; I do not remember exactly what it was.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. How many opposition members were returned?

Mr. CRAWFORD. I think there were eight.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Out of a total of forty members?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Yes, but I think there were only four opposition members in the previous House, so that the opposition was strengthened. Therefore, so far as my