

are not at all the kind of school laws that the people particularly of Ontario have in their minds. I think, if I am allowed to do so, I am justified in charging the opposition in this House and I will go further and say that I think I am justified in charging the newspapers, particularly those published in Toronto, with the responsibility to a very large extent for the feeling that prevails to-day throughout the province of Ontario on this question. The minds of the people of Ontario have been poisoned by misrepresentation as to what the real conditions are and as to what the intentions of the government are in connection with this legislation. The idea which has taken hold of the minds of the people of Ontario is an exaggerated one. They have the idea that it is the intention of the government to establish in the Northwest Territories schools of the character that we had in the province of Manitoba before 1890; that is to say, schools entirely under the control of the church. Under the law which prevailed in Manitoba prior to 1890 there was a Catholic school board. I may say that the members of that board were practically priests and some prominent members of the church. They controlled the schools and those who were employed as teachers were nuns and priests; in fact, they had scarcely a properly qualified teacher in their schools in Manitoba previous to 1890. The idea that the people of Ontario have to-day is that it is the government's intention to establish Roman Catholic church controlled schools entirely free and independent of the state. That is the idea that the people of Ontario have in their minds but the fact is that the conditions which have been reported to them do not really exist. It is hardly necessary for me to repeat what this school law really is. If this Bill goes through it will establish not what I claim are separate schools. In fact, the name 'separate' should hardly have been used in connection with them. We propose to continue in the Northwest Territories what they have already got—Catholic public schools and Protestant public schools, schools, no matter whether they are Catholic or Protestant, which are public schools and which are free to all classes of children, having the same text books, the same qualified teachers, under the same control, and that control entirely in the hands of the government and not in any way connected with the church. I feel as strongly on this question, I think, as any person in Canada at the present time. I think that possibly my Orange feelings or proclivities are just as strong as those of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule).

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. member has a bad way of showing them.

Mr. CRAWFORD. And if there was anything in the nature of a prejudice in connection with it I should have it, being an Orangeman. If I thought there was being

Mr. CRAWFORD.

established in the Northwest Territories what the people of Ontario have in their minds to-day, that is Roman Catholic church controlled schools, I would oppose it as strenuously as any one. I would not stand for it a minute. But, we have nothing of that kind. The very opposite is the condition and I am prepared, as I think every Orangemen in Canada should be prepared if he lived up to the constitution of the order, to act generously in this matter. Orangemen are ordered by their constitution to be generous and generous more particularly to their Roman Catholic friends, and their attitude will be in accordance with that obligation if they live up to the spirit of their constitution. Their constitution requires that they shall be generous to all classes of the people and more particularly to the Roman Catholics. I feel that at the present time we ought to be a little generous and that we are not going too far when we grant to the minority in the new provinces the kind of schools which they have at the present time. If their conscientious ideas or their feelings are such that they would like to be separated from the Protestants, or from all those other classes of people that the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) spoke about, I do not see any reason why we should not respect that feeling. I never imagined until I heard that hon. gentleman speaking to-day that a Presbyterian, or a Methodist, or a Baptist was not a Protestant. The hon. gentleman tried to play upon words and he tried to tell the people of Canada that Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Plymouth Brethren and members of the Salvation Army were not Protestants. I never knew that before.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Crawford) is doing my hon. friend from Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) a great injustice. Perhaps he did not understand him. My hon. friend was quoting the distinctions that were made in the census. They were not his own.

Mr. CRAWFORD. He told us on the floor of the House that he was expressing his own opinion. He said he was giving his own honest opinion.

Mr. SPROULE. He was quoting the different religions as given in the census.

Mr. CRAWFORD. What is the use of playing upon words? He stated that he gave his own honest opinion here to-night and he said that the Catholics were in the majority. What is the opinion and the idea that some of our people have as to the kind of schools that are being established in the Northwest Territories? Here is what the 'Christian Guardian' says. I shall just give a part of the article:

Toronto, March 3.

Let none of our readers mistake the real issue. This is no mere political question,