

entitles the minority in the Northwest Territories to separate schools. And I will go further and say that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) a learned professor of law in Laval University intimated in clear language that that would be his view as well. We also have the opinion of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. Leighton McCarthy), who is a leading member of a large firm of solicitors in Toronto, that separate schools would be introduced into the constitution of the Northwest Territories should Mr. Haultain's Bill pass. That being the case, it becomes important to consider the position of the opposition leader in this regard. I find that he says, at page 3111 of 'Hansard':

I base my case and my contention on the terms of the constitution. I do not argue against separate schools, I do not argue for separate schools.

Again, on page 3112, he says:

I do not think it is wise to attempt to step outside of the limits of the constitution to provide remedies which have no warrant within the terms of our charter.

He wants the law, he wants the constitution. Now, let us consider for a moment how that harmonizes with his resolution and with the Bill of Premier Haultain. This is the resolution the hon. gentleman moved in amendment to the motion for the second reading of the Autonomy Bill:

That all the words after the word 'that' to the end of the section be left out, and the following substituted therefor:

Upon the establishment of a province in the Northwest Territories of Canada, as proposed by Bill 69, the legislature of such province, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867 to 1886, is entitled to and should enjoy full powers of provincial government—

Does he stop there? No, Sir. That would be the limit of the constitution. He goes further and imports into the constitution these words:

Including powers to exclusively make laws in relation to education.

That flies right in the teeth of the statements he made which I have just quoted: 'I do not think it is wise to step outside of the limits of the constitution to provide remedies which have no warrant within the terms of our charter.' Now, when we refer to the Bill presented by Premier Haultain to this government, no such words are injected as: 'including powers exclusively to make laws in relation to education.' Why? Because he wanted to have the Northwest Territories continue the same school system as they have to-day, and to have that made part of the constitution under section 93 of the British North America Act; and to show further that the leader of the opposition did this deliberately, we find that the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) stated Mr. HALL.

in his speech that if the leader of the opposition would drop these last ten words, he would vote with him on this occasion. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) took similar grounds. Therefore, the leader of the opposition is not standing upon the rock of the constitution, but is trying to import into this legislation a term which will deprive the minority in the Northwest Territories of their rights under the constitution.

Now, Sir, the construction of Premier Haultain's Bill is of great consequence when we take into consideration the events which followed the writing of his letter to the Prime Minister of the Dominion. The general elections in the Northwest Territories took place on the 21st of May, 1902, and the Bill which Mr. Haultain had drafted was widely circulated among the electors. I will not ask the House to take my word for that, but I will quote Mr. Haultain's own words. This is an extract from an address issued by him to the electors of the Northwest Territories when he appealed for re-election in 1902.

The government has presented to the federal authorities the claims of the people of the Territories in the document which has been published and is being widely distributed. In that document the territorial government has expressed its opinion in favour of the recognition of one province. Action upon the whole question has been postponed by the Dominion government principally on the ground that 'there is a divergence of opinion respecting the question whether there shall be one province only or more than one province,' a question which in the last resort is one for the Dominion government to settle.

You will see that in that he speaks of a document which he describes as having been widely and extensively distributed throughout the Northwest Territories. It contained the draft Bill which he submitted to the Dominion government in regard to granting autonomy to the Northwest. In this same election address to the electors of the Northwest Territories, he says:

A similar appeal has been made in every constituency in the country by every candidate whose election will give support to the government at this critical time in the history of the Territories.

Many of the newspapers in Canada, particularly the opposition newspapers in Ontario, have taken the ground that the people of the Northwest Territories have not been consulted in regard to the autonomy to be granted. We find, according to Mr. Haultain's letter in May, 1902, that the election turned upon the draft Bill which was widely distributed so that anybody who could read could see that, without importing the words the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) desires the system of schools in use in the Northwest Territories would be continued as a part of the constitution of those Territories.