

troubles in the Northwest was that there was an overlapping of churches. He felt that in many cases that overlapping was not doing the good it ought to do. I mention these facts to remind hon. gentlemen who did not know Dr. Robertson, but who had perhaps heard of him, that he was a broad-minded man, a man who could take a broad view of all questions. From the year 1882 to 1902, I have followed every one of Dr. Robertson's reports presented to our church. I have followed these reports for twenty years, I have carefully looked into them, I have been myself a delegate to the assemblies of the Presbyterian church and I know that Dr. Robertson's reports were full of information and dealt in the most comprehensive manner with the Northwest Territories. When I mention the fact that in all these reports I failed to find one single word in twenty years against these schools in the Northwest it should have great weight with Protestants all over this country. If there was anything wrong with these schools in 1882, would not a broad-minded man like Dr. Robertson, whose life work was in the Northwest, have mentioned it in his first report? Would he not have mentioned it in his second report, or would he not, in the twenty reports that he presented to the general assembly, have had something to say regarding that question? I have a great many of these reports here. He gives first a general sketch of the character and resources of the country and then he goes into the question as, it appeared at that time, of the economic and social development of the Northwest and his firm belief at that time was that the west was to be one of the most important parts of our land; it was to be one of the parts of our land that would contain more people than even the general province of Ontario. He believed the day was coming when millions would live in peace and luxury in that country. In giving his opinion on all these things he was always pressing for men and money to help on the work of the church and I am glad to say, now that that great man is gone, that he was broad minded enough to find no fault with any other church in all the reports he made to our church.

Mr. LANCASTER. May I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. T. Martin) a question? Did Dr. Robertson at any time report against the provinces themselves dealing with the school question?

Mr. T. MARTIN. No, he did not.

Mr. LALOR. Is the hon. gentleman (Mr. T. Martin) aware that the Presbytery in his own county passed a resolution in condemnation of this Bill?

Mr. T. MARTIN. In my own county?

Mr. LALOR. Part of your own county.

Mr. T. MARTIN. Are you sure that is the case?

Mr. LALOR. I am informed so by gentlemen here.

Mr. T. MARTIN. Who are they? I would like to have those gentlemen rise and make that statement.

Mr. CHISHOLM. I had a resolution sent to me and I have a resolution here from the Presbytery of Saugeen and it stated that the resolution was to be sent to me and also to my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. Martin).

Mr. T. MARTIN. It so happens that I do not live in the same Presbytery as my hon. friend from East Huron (Mr. Chisholm). I know that in some Presbyteries resolutions have been passed, but the fact that he may have received the resolution to which the hon. gentleman refers does not prove that I did. We were told by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) that there was no one—

Mr. SPROULE. I suppose the hon. gentleman (Mr. T. Martin) will not deny that the Presbytery of Owen Sound, representing some 2,500 families—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. T. MARTIN. I do not know it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPROULE. I am in order.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPROULE. I am in order. Two can play that game.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order. With the consent of the Speaker the hon. gentleman has the right to ask him a question.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. member (Mr. T. Martin) is living in an adjoining county to my own. As a matter of courtesy I propose to ask him a question which I think I have a perfect right to do. I wished to ask him if he was aware of the fact that the Presbytery of Owen Sound, representing 2,500 families, had passed a strong resolution in opposition to the school clause of this Bill.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. Write us a letter about it.

Mr. T. MARTIN. I was not aware of it. I have no doubt it is true. I have noticed in the papers that several Presbyteries have done so, but I do not live in the Presbytery of Owen Sound. I live in the Presbytery of Saugeen. It was stated by the hon. member for Haldimand last night that the people of the Northwest Territories were very much opposed to the school clause in the Bill. I have a letter here, dated April