

therein always be provided (a) that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of the said province or of any less portion or subdivision thereof, by whatever name it is known, may establish such schools therein as they think fit, and make the necessary assessments and collection of rates therefor, and (b) that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor, and (c) that in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable only to assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves with respect thereto.

3. In the appropriation of public moneys by the legislature in aid of education, and in the distribution of any moneys paid to the government of the said province arising from the school fund established by the Dominion Lands Act, there shall be no discrimination between the public schools and the separate schools, and such moneys shall be applied to the support of public and separate schools in equitable shares or proportion.

Whereas in the above mentioned provisions, the vested rights of the minorities in both those provinces are sanctioned and provided for ;

Whereas said provisions are agreeable to the spirit of the constitution which governs the Dominion of Canada ;

Whereas the reasons set forth by the right hon. the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in support of said provisions, on the 21st of February, 1905, meet with the entire approval of the undersigned petitioners, irrespective of party affiliations ;

Whereas efforts are being put forth to have this legislation amended or withdrawn ;

We, the undersigned petitioners, do emphatically protest against such unfair an attempt, and respectfully beg that the above mentioned provisions be passed into law, during this session and maintained in their whole tenor as they now stand, as a full measure of fair-play and justice.

And we beg the right hon. the Prime Minister to lay down this petition on the table of the House of Commons.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

For the benefit of my colleagues who do not understand the French language, let me state that they are asking that separate schools be established in the Northwest Territories and that we do not legislate otherwise than in that direction. I am an admirer of the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Hughes) but I certainly do not share his views and especially so when he talks as he did in that Toronto interview.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bureau) says there was one petition distributed in the west, and a different one in Quebec.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Permit me to say that I distributed this petition through the province of Quebec the same as in other provinces, and it has been signed by the electors of that province and I presented

several petitions from the province of Quebec to the House.

Mr. BUREAU. I ask my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) who is one of the leaders of the party if any of these petitions which I hold in my hand were distributed in Ontario.

Mr. SPROULE. I never saw them before.

Mr. FIELDING. I am afraid we are getting perilously near losing sight of the motion in question before the House.

Mr. MONK. I rise to make a personal explanation because my hon. friend (Mr. Bureau) has referred to me by name. For the first time to-night I have heard of these petitions. I have not been to Montreal for quite a time ; I do not think I have been in the Jacques Cartier Club since the beginning of the session, and I know nothing whatever of these petitions. I am sure there is not a member in this House from the province of Quebec who would lend himself for a single moment to the ignoble role which has been suggested by my hon. friend.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). Mr. Speaker, this is the outcome of allowing too much latitude in debate. If members were to confine themselves to the actual question before the House, probably you, Sir, would have less difficulty in controlling the House, and probably it would be more creditable to members on both sides. A good deal has been said about the legality of these petitions, and I take it that probably there are Conservatives throughout the Dominion who are in favour of the legislation as well as those who are opposed to it, and both sides have a right to petition this House so long as as they do so in proper form. The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Sam. Hughes) may have made some statements of a controversial character but I do not think he went to the extent which my hon. friend from Cape Breton (Mr. A. Johnston) charges him with going. If the hon. member (Mr. A. Johnston) wants to evince a disposition to allay strife and ill feeling in this country I can assure him that he has taken the wrong method to-night.

Mr. J. B. MORIN (Dorchester). The hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. A. Johnston) referred to the member who was sitting near the leader of the opposition, and I want to know if he alluded to me ?

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. Most certainly not.

Mr. MORIN. I am told he mentioned the member for Dorchester.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. I made no reference to my hon. friend (Mr. Morin) when I spoke of the gentleman who sat beside the leader of the opposition.

Mr. MORIN. I am told you spoke of the member for Dorchester and if you did I am the man.