

when this law was passed in 1875 to protect the rights of the Protestant minority of the Northwest Territories it was passed without any obstruction from the Catholic majority of the west, and if it was passed with the complete acquiescence of the Catholic majority of the west why should our Protestant friends of the west to-day be any more narrow-minded than the Catholics were in 1875? Why should they not stand to-day as we stood in 1875 ready to give to our Protestant fellow-citizens what was their right and what we claim to be our right to-day, because we are now in the minority? I suppose, that our hon. friends on the other side of the House will want to know when the Northwest Territories enter confederation, and I suppose that the old war cry that we have heard very often in this discussion, without, it seems to me any reason, will be again heard that we are making an attack upon provincial rights. Well, Sir, my view is that the Northwest Territories are not yet members of the confederation of Canada. We know that they have not the rights of a province in the matter of education, that we have absolute and unlimited jurisdiction as far as the Northwest Territories go, and I think I can fairly say, Mr. Speaker, that the Northwest Territories in the matter of education or in any other matter have not even the colour of a right. The question has arisen: When do they enter the union, or when do they become a party to the compact formed in 1867 between Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick? Was it in 1870, or is it to-day or will it be to-morrow? Mr. Haultain, the premier of the Northwest Territories says that the Northwest Territories entered the union on the 15th July, 1870. One might ask by virtue of what law did the Northwest Territories become a party to the contract which implies the possession of all the powers which were conceded to the other provinces by the imperial parliament in 1867, only by a fiction of international law. But, let us for the moment accept the argument of Mr. Haultain, let us suppose that the Territories entered the union in 1870; by the terms of the British North America Act, separate schools having been established in the west since by the federal government which was the competent authority, and that law having been ratified by the legislature of the Northwest Territories, separate schools were established for ever and we cannot now abolish them. That, is not my opinion only. I would not give my own legal opinion on such an important question, but in stating this, I give the opinion which was expressed by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper in 1896. Speaking on the Manitoba school question in 1896, he quoted and endorsed what Hon. Mr. Mills said in the House of Commons on March 8, 1875:

The British North America Act favours the Catholic population. It provides that any pro-
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vince having separate schools before confederation should have them for all time, and also that any province not having them at the time of the union, but receiving them at any future time, shall receive them as a right which can never be taken back.

Well, Sir, is not that the case in the Northwest Territories to-day? In 1896, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper was quoting the Hon. D. Mills, on the Northwest Territories Act of 1875, and we know the Hon. David Mills was a high authority. If we take Mr. Haultain's opinion, not even this federal parliament, bound by its constitution and the Act of Confederation, can abolish the schools which were established after the so-called entrance into the union by the Act of 1870. My hon. friends on the other side may say that the British North America Act refers only to the provinces and that the word 'legislature' in section 93 does not mean the legislature of the Northwest Territories, but if they take the trouble to read the Canadian Interpretation Act, they will see that 'province' means the Territories of the Northwest and the district of Keewatin, and, they will see that the 'legislature' means not only the legislature of the provinces, but the legislature of the Northwest Territories and the Orders in Council passed relating to Keewatin.

It is true the British North America Act is an imperial statute, but is one worded by Canadians, passed on Canadian resolutions.

In the province of Quebec we were at first greatly impressed by the leader of the opposition as being a broad-minded man and a man above prejudices. He came to our province and his first words were addressed to the people in the French language, and that incident endeared him to the heart of the French Canadian, but, Sir, when the leader of the opposition had to show that he was really the leader of his party, never was more applicable the saying about a French statesman: 'Je suis le chef, il faut bien que je les suive.' When the hon. gentleman had to show himself as the leader of his party, we thought, judging by his short record of the past, we would see him occupy his position in public life with the mantle of Sir John A. Macdonald covering his shoulders. But we were disappointed. Was it too broad for his shoulders? I cannot say, but I know that the hon. gentleman has changed the mantle which Sir John Macdonald wore as the leader of the Conservative party; he has changed that broad mantle for a narrower one; one which may not be dignified by the name of mantle, but which perhaps might be better described as the short pea jacket of the old Tories that was worn by Sir Allan Macnab. However that may be, we have the consolation of seeing that the old Tory jacket is perhaps a little too short for the hon. member for Carleton,