

as regards schools. Technically the minority in Manitoba lack the guarantee of separate schools, while in the Northwest Territories they possess the right. Practically the Northwest Territories system is just as satisfactory to the majority as the Manitoba system is to the majority in that province. In the Northwest Territories we have public and separate schools under uniform inspection, uniform training and certificates for teachers, and uniform text-books.

The difference my hon. friend alludes to is so slight that it is generally not considered worth referring to. There is a difference in the authorized text books used in the first two standards, but we are giving the provinces full autonomy to deal with this question of text books themselves.

In Manitoba prior to 1890, there was popular complaint, and very well justified I believe it was—against the conduct of the separate schools. In the Northwest Territories there is not a vestige of popular complaint against our separate school management.

I intended going on to say that I believed the legislature of the Northwest Territory did not intend and Mr. Haultain's draft Bill did not contemplate any change with regard to schools. I had Dr. Goggin's interview given two years ago, a portion of which I have read, in which he said that he had not seen any declaration by the legislature or the premier that they intended to ask for any change with regard to schools. The interview is a very considerable one and I shall not read any more from it. In the manuscript which I had written out, I went on to say:

Doubtless there are extremists on both sides who will seek to foment trouble over the school question when autonomy is dealt with, but speaking not as a member of the minority but as one of the Protestant majority, I have no hesitation in expressing my belief that if our legislature and people were free to act to-morrow they would retain the present school system which permits the minority to have their separate schools. In Regina, where I live, we have excellent public schools and we have also an excellent separate school, and I verily believe that any step taken to abolish that separate school would find its most active and resolute opposition amongst members of the Protestant majority.

That was typewritten some time in June or July last, and it was really amplified from notes made nearly two years ago. If the question had ever come up, I should have had no hesitation at all—and this is the truth—in expressing my opinion on the separate school matter prior to the election that was supposed to be impending, or in the campaign for that matter, just as I am expressing it here to-night. I consider the proposition before the House is better for these provinces than any other suggestion that has been made. The proposition of the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. R. L. Borden) to permit the application of section 93 of the British North America Act, even if his inter-

Mr. SCOTT.

pretation were correct—which other able lawyers deny—and 1870 was the time of union for the purposes of interpretation, would leave the provinces subject to the cast-iron rock-ribbed, irrevocable—as the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) said—system of church and ecclesiastical schools which this Dominion parliament, by a majority of eighteen, at the instance of hon. gentlemen opposite, endeavoured to force upon the people of Manitoba in 1896. Who can guarantee that a similar juncture is impossible at some time in the future, when parliament, regardless of the sentiment of the people, may be cajoled and coerced, by threats, by intimidation, by any of the devices known to unscrupulous political leaders—by the same means that the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) knows better than any of us were used in 1896, parliament might be induced to attempt to invade the autonomy of these new provinces. The hon. member for East Grey knows that if the remedial legislation of 1896 had been enacted there was no power in the Dominion of Canada that could have repealed it. I find that this Bill not only protects minority rights to a perfectly justifiable extent without coercion or invasion of substantial provincial autonomy, but it is also intended to protect the majority rights in the way I have described. It embodies a charter, secure and safe against the possibility of a later invasion of the political autonomy of the provinces, which the application of section 93 as intended by Mr. Borden's amendment would leave room and invitation for; and this Bill is a far more complete and secure measure of autonomy than is the proposition of the leader of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, since the opening of the present session this House has lost one of its valuable and prominent members, the late hon. member for Centre Toronto, Mr. E. F. Clarke. He was prominent not only in this House but in the organization of which the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is an ornament. Amongst all classes of people and in this parliament he was recognized as a very broad-minded man. It is fortunate, perhaps, that he has left his opinion with regard to this very subject. In his newspaper the 'Orange Sentinel' of which he was the editor for many years is the following statement, published in the issue of February 9:

It is not certain whether the people of the Northwest Territories and their representatives object to having separate schools fastened upon them. There has been no organized or official protest against such a course, although it has been known for two years or more that the change was imminent. This makes it appear that the people interested are satisfied. If that is the case, there is nothing for the other provinces to do but to acquiesce with what grace they may. The attitude taken in 1896 was that a province should not be co-