

the kindest feelings towards them. We find a Protestant historian in 1878 saying that not a cape was turned or a bay entered, where these self-sacrificing gentlemen did not lead the way. Could anything be more tolerant than that expression? But, Sir, let us go a little further in the list and see how many people from Quebec are in these western provinces. The figures are:

In British Columbia	4,329
Manitoba	8,492
Northwest Territories	5,504
Total	18,325

I am not going to make the argument that because there are only a few people from Quebec out there their rights should therefore be ignored, but the number, so far as rights are concerned, ought to be considered. I wish to meet the argument used very frequently by hon. gentlemen opposite that Ontario has no right to concern herself with this question. From the other provinces we find that the numbers are:

From Nova Scotia—	
In British Columbia	4,603
Manitoba	1,536
Northwest Territories	1,739
Total	7,878
From New Brunswick—	
In British Columbia	2,839
Manitoba	820
Northwest Territories	1,025
Total	4,684
From Prince Edward Island—	
In British Columbia	1,180
Manitoba	419
Northwest Territories	644
Total	2,243

You see the other provinces all told have not sent as many people up to that country as Ontario alone. We have a perfect right to say something about what the condition of these people shall be under the Autonomy Bill. The right hon. gentleman who is anxious to get his own friends into power in these provinces when they are once on their feet no doubt felt that he could not tell what his political friends might do with the interests of the minority out there and therefore he thinks it is better to guard their interests by a federal Act. Let me point out that the only instance we have where the people's rights in that respect were trampled upon was by the friends of the right hon. gentleman in Manitoba, and this is a case where he no doubt prays to-day: The Lord deliver me from my friends. They were the only people who saw fit to override the rights of their own fellow citizens in Manitoba, and if he cannot trust them I do not know that the western country has any right to do so. I wish to say that the people of this country are able to work out their own problems and to do what is right with each other. They have

shown that ability, they have shown that disposition, and Sir, the present attitude of the right hon. gentleman and his government in putting this Bill through this House and enforcing certain conditions on the people out in the Territories is the strongest reason why trouble may be anticipated in the future. If we should leave to themselves the working out of their own problems as they see fit, I venture to say that nobody would suffer any great harm at the hands of the majority in that country. That is not the disposition of the people in this country, and as I said the only instance where any attempt has been made to do anything of that kind was on the part of the right hon. gentleman's own political friends, and they had, I think, the strong endorsement of the right hon. gentleman himself; at least they had the encouragement from him of resisting a proposed settlement by the Dominion government of that day.

I am not going to discuss the pros and cons of separate schools themselves, but I wish to say that if you admit the principle of separate schools, the bounden duty rests on every citizen to see that the public school, the school not only of the majority of the people but of the majority of the denominations of the people suffers no harm because of the existence of separate schools. I was sorry when I found that the right hon. gentleman thought it necessary to go out of his way to strike at the public schools of this country by striking at the public schools of the United States. He laid stress on the condition of things which we find in that country; he laid at the door of the public school all the crimes that are committed there, the divorces, lynchings and everything of that kind. If the right hon. gentleman had taken the trouble to look up the history of the question he would have found that the part of the country where there are most lynchings is the part of the country that did not have a public school at all until after the war, in 1865; that is the south. What is the history of the public school in that country? One of our friends opposite the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) went away back to the Puritan times, when they burned witches 250 years ago. They burned witches long after that in some other countries, but the hon. gentleman did not see fit to say that while they were burning witches there they had no public school in that country. They were religious zealots influenced by the strong discipline they had known at home. These people on the western coasts of the Atlantic deserve the credit, and I believe have the historical fact in their favour that the first public school in the world was instituted by them at Dorchester, down in Massachusetts. An island known as Thompson Island was set apart and allotted to certain people on condition that they should pay £20, that is \$100 a