

these clauses. I am sorry the Minister of Justice is not in his seat at this moment, because I would like to have put to him a question that he might tell us what is the difference between the new clauses and the old clauses, wherein is this great capitulation that is said to have been made by the First Minister to the ex-Minister of the Interior and his following from the west. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that so far as I have been able to gather, I do not see any material difference between them. As I read the two, the separate schools that were contained in the original clauses are retained in the substituted clauses, and I cannot read them in any other way. I could not see, after the ex-Minister of the Interior gave that very able exposition, that there is any material difference between the original and the new clauses of the measure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say plainly, so that there may be no question where I stand, that according to my reading of Canadian history and of the constitution under which we are united as one Dominion—and I believe what is the opinion of a vast majority of those who live in the section from which I come—when separate schools were introduced into this country, so far back I think as 1840, they were introduced only in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. So far as I have been able to gather from the history of this subject, and so far as I have been able to understand the meaning of the various Acts that have been passed, I find that Ontario undertook to bear this disability for the sake of Quebec, and Quebec undertook to bear this disability for the sake of Ontario. There was a mutual understanding and a friendly arrangement entered into between the two provinces and neither of which has shown a disposition up to the present time to go back upon it. It was understood to be a settlement for all time. It was said that if separate schools were introduced into Quebec and Ontario it would be a settlement of the question for all time. That settlement was made, those provinces entered into that arrangement, the Catholics of Quebec agreeing to give the Protestant minority separate schools, and the Protestants of Ontario to give in like manner separate schools to the Catholic minority of that province. That I believe was the agreement and arrangement entered into in the early days of confederation. That was long before these western provinces came into confederation, long before they were thought of, even the provinces down by the sea had not at that time joined us. So it could not have been possible for the provinces which then accepted separate schools to know that this school question was going to become one for the whole Dominion, and that no matter what additional territory might be brought into the Dominion this bargain that was entered into between the two provinces I have named was likewise to be extended

to all the sister provinces and all the new Territories that might be added from time to time to this vast confederation. I say that I believe that was not the intention, I believe that was not the view of those who formed confederation. I believe that at that time they never supposed that the question would be raised as regards the new provinces; it was never supposed that the province of Quebec could extend this arrangement into the new Territories and new provinces that might be from time to time added to the Dominion of Canada.

I do not believe that it was the case, and therefore, holding that view as I do, I am here to say now that as far as I am concerned I believe that separate schools are in the province of Quebec and are in the province of Ontario to stay for all time to come, unless it may be that that millenium which I endeavoured to picture to the House a little while ago should come earlier than we at present expect. But, whether or not this rapprochement will take place between these various bodies remains to be seen. I intend to refer presently to the extract which I have read from the speech of the right hon. gentleman, but before entering upon that, I desire to mention that in this debate we have been told almost by every speaker that consideration for the minority is something that we should keep constantly in view. I do not know by what class of reasoning hon. gentlemen opposite can arrive at the decision that the Roman Catholic population of this country are the minority. I intend in this connection to read to the House the statistics as prepared by that estimable authority, the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and as presented to this House in the year 1901. I am going to read the figures contained in this report which show the religious populations of the Dominion of Canada. I find on page 154 of the Census of Canada, 1901, that the various denominations in the Dominion of Canada at that date are set down as follows:

Roman Catholics.. . . .	2,229,600
Anglicans.. . . .	680,620
Presbyterians.. . . .	842,442
Methodists.. . . .	916,886
Baptists.. . . .	292,189
Free Baptists.. . . .	24,288
Mennonites.. . . .	31,797
Doukhobors.. . . .	8,775
Greek Church.. . . .	15,630
Lutherans.. . . .	92,524
Congregationalists.. . . .	28,293
Brethren.. . . .	8,014
Disciples.. . . .	14,900
Adventists.. . . .	8,058
Jews.. . . .	16,401
Salvation Army.. . . .	10,308
Friends.. . . .	4,100
Mormons.. . . .	6,891
Pagans.. . . .	15,107
Protestants.. . . .	11,612
Various sects.. . . .	64,633
Unspecified.. . . .	48,247