

have just mentioned. One of the reasons given why we should grant separate schools to the Northwest Territories is the alleged early settlement of that country by the French Canadians. I shall not take up any time in dealing with this school question, as I am not a lawyer nor am I accustomed to deal with questions of this kind. I think it most unfortunate that this government has introduced this school question on the eve of the granting of provincial autonomy. I have lived in that country for thirty years, and up to this time, I have never heard the school question put forward as an issue on the public platform. It has been stated by several members on the other side of the House that the school question was an issue in that country at several elections. Just to illustrate that point I will read what two members of the House have said with regard to it. The hon. member for West Peterborough (Mr. Hall) said :

Now I contend that it does not lie in the mouth of any gentleman in this House or of any newspaper in this country to say that the people of the Northwest have not been consulted, that they have not had an opportunity of expressing their views on this subject, because, in the most solemn manner in which a free people may express their views, they have declared their wish that the Northwest ordinances should be continued as part of the law of their province.

Now, another gentleman on that side of the House made a statement the direct contradiction of this. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott), was asked a question in the course of his speech, and in answering it said :

That the Liberal candidates were asked as to what their action would be if returned to parliament on the matter of schools and that their answer was : You must trust the government. I make this statement here, that beyond the question that was put in Regina for the then Minister of the Interior, who was going to Regina a week later and which was put by Mr. Haultain, I never heard the question mentioned in the whole of my campaign. The question was never put to me ; I never gave an answer in regard to this question. Everybody knows that the Northwest Territories were to be granted autonomy very early in the new parliament and no Roman Catholic or Protestant ever came to me privately or ever put the question at a public meeting or asked me what my action would be in that regard. This is further proof, if any were needed beyond what I have already given to the House, that the Northwest Territories were not asking for any more freedom in regard to schools than that which they have enjoyed for the last fourteen years.

Now, here we have one hon. member making the statement that the school question was never an issue in the Northwest Territories, and another declaring that it was one of the leading questions and had been discussed on every platform. Contradictions of this kind must be most confusing to members of this House and to the people at large. I can only say that when the Haul-

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tain government went to the country in 1902 on what was known as the draft Bill, they appealed to the electors purely upon the question of provincial autonomy, the subject principally discussed on the platforms was whether the people of the Northwest should have control of their own lands and minerals.

That was the whole issue, the school question was never mentioned from beginning to end of that campaign. I think another hon. gentleman stated in this debate that he had received a letter from a gentleman in the Northwest Territories saying that the people of the Northwest wished the Dominion government to retain possession of the land. Well, I must say that I think the gentleman who wrote that letter did not know what he was talking about. Now the reason why the school question was never an issue in any of the elections in the Northwest Territories, at least one of the reasons, was this : We always considered, until the time this Bill was introduced, that when autonomy was granted to us the subject of schools would be one of the things left us to deal with by the new constitution. I claim that we are just as capable of dealing with that question as the people in any other part of this Dominion. I am not going to say whether we want separate schools or not, but I will say that I believe the majority in the Northwest Territories are just as tolerant as they are in any other part of the Dominion. I am not a lawyer, but I will say that from what I have heard of the opinions quoted from eminent constitutional lawyers, it seems to me that the question of education was intended by the British North America Act to be left to the provinces to deal with ; and I still hope that the government will see their way clear, even at this late stage, to drop the educational clauses from this Bill and let the provinces deal with that subject.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I propose to say a few words on the question of the boundary between the two provinces. That is a question that has been passed over rather lightly by the speakers who have discussed this Bill. I want to give you an illustration of the way the proposed boundary will affect some interests detrimentally. We have only one stock range in the Dominion of Canada, and that is in that portion of the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan that used to form a portion of the old provinces of Assiniboia and Alberta. What I mean by a stock range is a country where cattle and horses can range all the year round, where stock of all kinds live on the prairies for twelve months in the year. That stock country extends from the Rocky mountains east about 300 miles along the international boundary line, going as far north as the Red Deer river, perhaps 200 miles. The stock runs at large in numerous herds, and the animals are only known to the owners