

cut it up into sections, have been answered.

Now I will deal briefly with another point mentioned by the hon. gentleman with regard to the literature that was sent out broadcast and what it said about the character of the schools. If a pamphlet that has been sent out lately is such as the hon. gentleman has stated, and I have no doubt it is, I can only tell my hon. friend that it is very different from some literature of that character that was sent out in 1881 when the hon. gentleman's friends were leading the government of this country. The Department of Agriculture sent out a pamphlet making the following reference to the subject of education:

The school system was based upon that of Quebec, that is to say, that Catholics have an absolute control and complete direction of the education of their children, and that Protestants possess exactly the same rights.

That pamphlet was sent out in 1881 when Sir John A. Macdonald and his friends had control of the government, and when the Act of 1875 was fresh in their minds. They sent this pamphlet broadcast over Europe, wherever immigrants could be induced to come to this country and settle in our Northwest; they were told that the same system of schools prevailed there that prevailed in Quebec and that people of the faith of our Ontario friends would find there exactly the kind of education that is given in Ontario.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will proceed to deal with the constitutional question that is involved in this discussion though I will not presume that I can deal with it satisfactorily to everybody. I propose to deal with this subject under three different phases. First, I would ask what power have we in respect to this question? What should we do with that power or how should we exercise it if we have any power in this matter? Now the first thing I find in this constitution of ours states that the Dominion of Canada shall be united with a constitution similar to that and based upon the constitution of Great Britain and Ireland. We start out with that declaration in our constitution, it is not a hard and fast constitution that is unbending, that we cannot change one way or the other; it is a constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Those of us who know anything about the constitution of Great Britain know how elastic it is, how it is made to suit various conditions, how it can be capable of taking under its folds all conditions of men. When we remember that we are attracting into our Northwest the very classes of people that go to make up the British empire we will realize at once that we need just such a constitution as that of the United Kingdom to enable us to deal with all these people as successfully as Great Britain deals with them. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a constitution in our hands that is not a hard and fast instrument, we

have to deal with certain conditions in this country to-day and I think it would be well for us to keep constantly before our minds that our constitution is based upon the British constitution that is able to govern millions of people in the Indies, millions of people in the other parts of the world, and hundreds of thousands if not millions of people in South Africa. In adjusting that constitution to our own conditions will it be said that we cannot without a wrench and a violation of our institutions in this country and the foundations of the state, make that constitution that is equal in principle to the British constitution apply to the provinces of the west? Now, very shortly after confederation steps were taken to bring in the Northwest Territories. In order to understand this question aright we should follow as nearly as possible the steps that were taken in this connection. First we find the parliament of Canada presenting an address asking Her Gracious Majesty to admit Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories into the union. Let us see what they say:

That the 146th section of the British North America Act, 1867, provides for the admission of Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories, or either of them, into the union with Canada, upon the terms and conditions to be expressed in addresses from the House of parliament of this Dominion to your Majesty, and which shall be approved of by your Majesty in Council.

That we do therefore most humbly pray that your Majesty will be graciously pleased, by and with the advice of your Most Honourable Privy Council, to unite Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory with this Dominion, and to grant to the Parliament of Canada authority to legislate for their future welfare and good government and we most humbly beg to express to your Majesty that we are willing to assume the duties and obligations of government and legislation as regards these territories.

That in the event of your Majesty's government agreeing to transfer to Canada the jurisdiction and control over the said region, the government and parliament of Canada will be ready to provide that the legal rights of any corporation, company or individual within the same shall be respected, and placed under the protection of courts of competent jurisdiction.

Now, what I wish to point out is that in the second part of this petition the parliament of Canada, not recognizing up to this time that they had the power to deal with this territory, pray that Her Majesty shall be graciously pleased to give them the power that is necessary to make laws for the government of the country.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. What is the date of that?

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE. 1868. After this petition was presented to Her Majesty for power to deal with this land an Order in Council was passed on the 23rd day of June, 1870. It is headed as follows: