

any defect that might exist by reason of the particular section in the British Columbia Act, which stated that if a railway was not commenced within a certain time the corporate powers of the company ceased to exist. Now, we have cured that, as we believe, by section 1 of the Act. And that extends still further. We do not want the question whether or not that was commenced within the time prescribed by the British Columbia Act left in an uncertain state. We wish to make it definite and distinct by this provision.

Mr. HENDERSON. If the promoter is satisfied I have no reason to object.

Mr. MACPHERSON. I would like to give notice of a motion which I intend to move at the next meeting of the committee to consider this Bill. It will be to this effect:

The company shall, within two years from the passing of this Act, commence the construction of the western portion of the main line from a point at or near Cloverdale, and shall continue to prosecute the construction in an easterly direction to Princetown, as provided in the charter of the company, chapter 75 of 60 Victoria, statutes of British Columbia.

Motion agreed to, and progress reported.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed in committee on Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. BOURASSA. Mr. Chairman, when the committee rose at six o'clock, I had just made an analysis of the different ordinances that were adopted by the assembly of the Northwest Territories from 1884 to 1888, completing, to my mind, the historical sketch given by the Prime Minister this afternoon, and showing especially—and that was the point I insisted upon and still insist upon—that, so far as the organization of school districts is concerned, under all these ordinances the majority of any district remained entitled, as they had been under the law of 1875, to organize either a Catholic or a Protestant school. Most of the members of this House will remember that it was about these years that Mr. Dalton McCarthy began his movement for the abolition of the separate schools in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, which, as he stated, was a preliminary step to the abolition of religious education throughout the Dominion and the abolition of French as an official language in Canada. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) stated some time ago that in the Northwest assembly, although the first opinion had been given in favour of abolishing separate schools, that opinion was not maintained by Mr. Haultain especially. I have followed the proceedings of the assembly of the Northwest Territories just as I have read

all the ordinances, and not only a few of them. I have found that first in 1889 the Northwest assembly petitioned this parliament by two addresses, one asking for the repeal of clause 14 of the Northwest Territories Act in the revised statutes of Canada, and the other asking for the repeal of clause 110. Clause 14 provides for the maintenance of separate schools and the other provides for the maintenance of French as an official language in the Northwest. These addresses were not complied with in this parliament. In 1890, on November 18th, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Brett, reaffirming the resolution of 1889. Perhaps for party reasons, certainly for reasons with which I am not familiar, Mr. Haultain opposed this measure, and it was defeated by a vote of 15 to 6. But, ten days afterwards, a resolution was brought forward by Mr. Cayley, seconded by Mr. Haultain, to the very same effect—reiterating the demands of the Northwest assembly of the previous year, and asking the Dominion parliament to repeal sections 14 and 110 of the Northwest Territories Act. So far as Mr. Haultain's intentions are concerned, I think there can be no doubt that from 1889 his aim, so far as education is concerned, was to do away with the dual system established under the law of 1875—and we shall see presently how far he has succeeded. Of course, as hon. members know, in 1891 Mr. Dalton McCarthy introduced a Bill that would have had for its effect the carrying out of the wish of Mr. Haultain and the Northwest assembly. But that Bill was rejected by this parliament. In 1892 the Northwest Territories adopted the ordinance that has been so often referred to. As the Prime Minister accurately stated this afternoon, the effect of that ordinance was to do away with the dual administration of the schools. The council of public instruction, composed partly of Protestants and partly of Catholics, which council divided itself into two committees for the supervision of the Catholic and Protestant schools, respectively, was abolished, and the government of the Northwest Territories in effect formed itself into an executive committee of public instruction, with a kind of advisory board, having nothing to do with the execution of the law and having only powers of advice. This may not be the most important point in the case, but it was certainly the beginning of what I call the policy of persecution inaugurated by Mr. Haultain in the Northwest Territories. Of course, opinions may differ as to that. But I am sure that if you have a system of separate schools, one of the essential bases of that system must be a body composed of men of the creed that has the right to the separate schools. In support of that I may quote an opinion which I am sure will be accepted by at least the majority of this House. In 1893, speaking