

the said province, or of any less portion or subdivision thereof, by whatever name it is known, may establish such schools therein as they think fit, and make the necessary assessments and collection of rates therefor, and (b) that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor, and (c) that in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable only to assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves with respect thereto.

And, in case it should be asserted, as it was in 1896 in the case of the Remedial Bill that, because no money was provided for the maintenance of the separate schools, therefore it was no good, my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) made the following provision:

3. In the appropriation of public moneys by the legislature in aid of education, and in the distribution of any moneys paid to the government of the said province arising from the school fund established by the Dominion Lands Act, there shall be no discrimination between the public schools and the separate schools, and such moneys shall be applied to the support of public and separate schools in equitable shares or proportion.

There is the law that the right hon. Prime Minister wanted for the new provinces in the Northwest Territories, and I repeat—and I am not afraid to give my opinion or to state my reasons for it—this had my entire approval. To me, it seems simply a case of rendering justice to whom justice was due. To me it seemed an act of fairness to these 125,000 people that, my hon. friend from Brandon (Mr. Sifton) said, went into the Northwest Territories upon the faith of that law. In effect it declared to them: You have not been deceived by the government of the Dominion of Canada.

It has been said in this House in the course of this debate—I cannot remember by whom—that it was an evidence of great generosity on the part of the people of the Northwest Territories that, in 1875 the Mackenzie government then in power in the Dominion, granted separate schools for the Northwest. Well, Sir, I do not give any member of this House new information when I say that in 1875 the majority of the inhabitants of the Northwest Territories were French Canadians and Catholics. That being the case, it was merely an act of justice to give them the schools they wanted.

Now, I shall be told that there were ordinances passed after the Act of 1875. So there were. I will take these up in their order. In 1885 there was an ordinance passed effecting the organization of the school system. When I quote that ordinance it will be seen that its effect was to establish such a system as we have in the province of Quebec. In that province we have a council of public instruction

composed one-half of Protestants and one-half of Catholics, the Protestant managing the affairs of their schools and the Catholics managing the affairs of their schools. This is a system of separate schools not merely in name, but in fact.

The Lieutenant Governor in Executive Council may appoint and constitute a board of education for the Northwest Territories, composed of five members, two of whom shall be Roman Catholics, and two shall be Protestants, and the Lieutenant Governor, who shall be chairman.

Now, I refer to clause 6—the clauses before that have nothing to do with the subject I am now discussing, but relate merely to domestic affairs. Clause 6 says:

The board of education shall resolve itself into two sections, the one consisting of the Protestant, and the other of the Roman Catholic members thereof, and it shall be the duty of each section:

1. To have under its control and management the schools of its section, and to make from time to time such regulations as may be deemed fit for their general government and discipline, and the carrying out of provisions of this ordinance.

This was the ordinance of 1885. When this was passed, the law of 1875 was still the law, and this ordinance was merely providing an organization for carrying that law into effect. How long did it last? Unfortunately, in the Northwest as in Manitoba and elsewhere the new-comers, honest men, no doubt, and sincere in their convictions, by degrees have taken away nearly everything that was granted to the minority under the Acts of 1875.

The ordinance of 1892 was promulgated on December 1, 1892. There is the first blow at what I call separate schools. The name did not disappear; it was put in golden letters here the other day by the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton), but the system of separate schools commenced to be torn to pieces in 1892. What was done then?

The Lieutenant Governor by and with the advice and consent of the legislative assembly of the Territories enacts as follows:

The first three sections deal with expressions such as 'school districts' &c. Clause 4 reads:

There may be established, subject to the provisions of this ordinance and to the regulations of the council of public instruction, the following classes of schools, namely:

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish you to follow these words with the closest attention.

(a) Public schools for pupils between five and twenty years of age, in which instruction shall be given in the elements of an English and commercial education.