

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Subsection 1 as I understand it gives the key note. I believe that subsection 1 would not apply to territories coming in under legislation of the character I asked for in my resolution, and I thought also that subsections 3 and 4 might be governed by the considerations affecting subsection 1.

Mr. BRODEUR. I think my hon. friend is absolutely mistaken because while subsection 2 may not apply subsections 3 and 4 might apply.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I concede that, and the hon. gentleman may be right; but my hon. friend asked me for my opinion and I stated there was a difference of opinion in the House on the subject. I was simply giving my own opinion with regard to the matter and with every deference to the opinions of hon. gentlemen in this House who differ from me. I could not do any more than give my opinion in reply to his question, and I think I have given it with sufficient clearness. I have a strong opinion about subsection 1, but not a strong opinion about subsections 3 and 4. The question is not the same.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am not yet absolutely satisfied that my hon. friend has answered my question. I thought that when he undertook to propose this law he should be in a position to tell us whether remedial legislation would apply or would not apply. For my part I believe it is the duty of this parliament to decide to-day what is the law and what should be the law.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As my hon. friend is in a questioning mood I would like to put him a question. Does he mean that this parliament can decide any matter of that kind by assuming powers which it may be found eventually not to possess?

Mr. BRODEUR. I will be in a position in a few moments to discuss that phase of the question.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is a very pertinent point just now.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am here to assert that I consider this parliament has the right. I cannot be certain whether the future will agree with me or not, but I assert here that this parliament has to-day the right to decide what the law should be with regard to separate schools in the Northwest. I go further than my hon. friend does.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The only difference is that I am not quite so cock sure as my hon. friend is.

Mr. BRODEUR. Then I stand in a better position than does my hon. friend, and the government stands in a better position than he does because the government have decided as to its course while my hon. friend does not seem to be able to decide what is the meaning of

Mr. BRODEUR.

his amendment. I may be mistaken, but I do say here that if under the amendment of the leader of the opposition, remedial legislation does not apply, then it is the most unjust proposition which has ever been brought before the parliament of this country. In view of the agreements which I have just quoted, in view of the agreement which was made in London in 1867, in view of the agreement which was made with regard to the schools in the Northwest in 1869, I say that we should be in a position now to declare whether we shall guarantee the rights and privileges which the minority should enjoy in this country; that we should not leave it to the future to decide what shall be the position of the minority, but that we shall be brave enough to say to them: here is the law under which you shall live.

Mr. BORDEN. May I ask my hon. friend one question. Does he attach importance to the remedial legislation which is provided for by subsection 4?

Mr. BRODEUR. Certainly I attach a great deal of importance to it, and for the reason that if the legislature should establish separate schools in the Northwest Territories and if it should afterwards abolish these separate schools, then this parliament would have the right to disallow that law as it should have the right to disallow a law so unjust.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Might I ask one more question? Does he understand that the minority in Manitoba have their full rights to-day?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear

Mr. BRODEUR. I am not going to say—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Let us be brave.

Mr. BRODEUR. We are not discussing the Manitoba Bill, we are discussing the Northwest Territories Bill and we find on this side of the House a party which stands for a definite position, and on the other side we have a party which is divided against itself.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Do I understand that my hon. friend declines to answer that very disconcerting question which I put just now?

Mr. BRODEUR. I will be very glad to discuss that question some other day. I have been speaking now for an hour, occasionally interrupted as I have been, and I will be very glad to discuss that question any time my hon. friend makes a motion, and which I trust will be in clearer language than the one he has now before the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.