

toba, and are now attempting to refuse it to the new provinces. These provinces are now being formed and we are giving them a constitution. If we do so and give them the right to separate schools the legislature there are powerless to abolish it except to take the same course that Greenway did. Then the minority would have the same right to appeal as the minority of Manitoba had for remedial legislation.

I therefore intend both with my voice and vote to oppose any legislation that will interfere with giving these provinces full jurisdiction in dealing with this matter themselves.

I herein inclose you copy of 'Hansard' giving the debate that took place here on Wednesday last, showing the attitude of the parties on the question.

Believe me to be,

Yours faithfully,

Mr. BUREAU. Who is it signed by?

Mr. TAYLOR. What does the hon. gentleman say?

Mr. BUREAU. Who signs the letter?

Mr. TAYLOR. I signed the letter.

Mr. BUREAU. Oh, thank you.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is nothing objectionable in it, I hope.

Mr. BUREAU. Oh, no; I expected as much.

Mr. TAYLOR. Being a layman, I do not purpose dealing with the legal aspect of the question. Our leader (Mr. R. L. Borden) has given an opinion which has not been controverted, and in my opinion the hon. leader of the opposition stands head and shoulders above any hon. gentleman on this or the other side of the House in so far as legal attainments are concerned. I think it is an opinion which commends itself, not only to the House, but to the country generally. On constitutional law, I do not think he has an equal in this country, and he has given an opinion which has met with the approval, not only of those who sit on this side of the House, but even of ex-ministers of the government, because, when the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) made his speech in the House, he said that he had read the speech made by his leader on the constitutional aspect of the case and also by the leader of the opposition, and he rather agreed with the opinion given by the hon. leader of the opposition. The hon. ex-Minister of the Interior is an able lawyer, and he approved of the opinion given by the hon. leader of the opposition as to the constitutional aspect of the question now before the House. But I intend to deal with it from the layman's point of view, and perhaps will, before I get through, refer to the opinion of the man on the street as the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior did. I intend to stand by what, I think, is the proper constitutional principle; I intend to stand by the constitution, as every Orangeman in this country is bound by his obligation to uphold the constitution. Although representing, as I said before, a strong Protestant constitu-

Mr. TAYLOR.

ency, one of the strongest in the province of Ontario, when the Jesuits' Estates Act came before this House on a former occasion, notwithstanding the fact that the late Dalton McCarthy, the late Colonel O'Brien, and many other leading Orangemen and Protestants had raised a very strong feeling in reference to that question throughout the country, I believed then, as I do now, that the province of Quebec had a perfect right to deal with that question without any interference from this parliament, and I took my political life in my hand and voted in favour of leaving that question within the control of the provincial authorities.

Again when the Manitoba school question came up, when the Greenway government passed an Act abolishing separate schools in the province of Manitoba, and when that Act came before the government of the late lamented Sir John Macdonald as all provincial Acts have to come to the Dominion government for review, notwithstanding the fact that every bishop, archbishop and prelate of the Roman Catholic church in this country had petitioned Sir John Macdonald's government to disallow that Act, Sir John acting upon the advice of his Minister of Justice, the late Sir John Thompson, who stated that the province of Manitoba had by the constitution a perfect right to deal with all school matters, agreed, I think with the consent and approval of the present Prime Minister, to refer that matter to the highest court in the realm, the Queen's Privy Council, and to give effect by legislation to whatever decision the Privy Council might give. The matter went to the Privy Council and that court decided that the provincial government of Manitoba acted within its constitutional jurisdiction and had a right to pass the Act, but the judgment went further and stated that the minority had a grievance and had a right to appeal to this parliament, which they did. Sir John Macdonald, Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, had all passed away and Sir Mackenzie Bowell was then Prime Minister. He fell heir to the promise of the late Sir John A. Macdonald, and during the first session after he became premier he introduced a Remedial Bill giving relief to the minority in the province of Manitoba. During that session disagreements arose in his own cabinet over this question and it was finally decided to let the matter stand over until the next session and to deal with it as the first question after the session was called. A session was called especially to deal with it. Sir Charles Tupper was acting as leader of the government in this House under Sir Mackenzie Bowell, and Sir Charles introduced the Remedial Bill. Then to the surprise of myself and of almost every member of the House the present Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) the present Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock) the present Min-