

proper for the right hon. gentleman as leader of a government to have frequent conferences with the Papal Alegate in Ottawa with reference to a dominant part of his policy in creating new provinces, and to give the go-by of the representatives of the people in the government?

Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman did not consult the Minister of the Interior who represented the Northwest Territories, who was their sole representative in the cabinet in reference to the educational clauses of this Bill, but he sits in abject silence and allows me to state here in the House by that silence, that he did take care to consult the Papal delegate here in Ottawa. The right hon. leader of the government did not consult the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). Will the right hon. gentleman tell me now whether he consulted on that educational clause more frequently the one than the other, his Postmaster General or the Papal Alegate?

He goes further :

Why all this fuss about such a thing as that, but, when it comes to a question of infants in arms, the wards of my right hon. friend, when their manhood and their rights for ever are to be given to them or abridged from them, my right hon. friend ignores the Minister of the Interior, ignores other members of his cabinet, but consults the Papal Alegate.

I also desire to refer the committee to the speech of the hon. the leader of the opposition as found in 'Hansard' on page 4006 :

I have nothing to say with regard to the position which is said to have been assumed by His Excellency Monseigneur Sbarretti. He is not in any sense responsible to this parliament, he is responsible only to his ecclesiastical superiors in authority. The only persons who are in any way responsible to this parliament are the government of this country, and I thought that my right hon. friend to-day might have gone a little further than he did go. He knows as well as any one of the rest of us that it has been rumoured throughout this country, not only rumoured but stated in the public press, that there were negotiations with His Excellency with regard to education in the Northwest Territories, if not in Manitoba. My right hon. friend did not see fit to touch that question at all to-day, and I suppose when he thinks a proper occasion arises he will deal with it. But in the meantime I may call his attention to the fact that the statements are being made in the press of the country upon what authority I do not know. All I do know is that when statements made in a very much less direct manner and on very slight foundation, were current in 1895 and 1896 with regard to the Conservative administration of those days, my hon. friend was always ready to come forward and ask for ministerial explanations, and if necessary to move the adjournment of the House in order that they might be discussed.

In view of the attitude which he saw fit to adopt ten years ago, we might have expected that he would have gone a little further to-day in calling the attention of the House to these circumstances. As I said before, the matter may perhaps require to be discussed a little further. I was not aware that the right hon. gentleman intended to bring it up to-day in

Mr. PORTER.

this somewhat extended form. If necessary, it may be brought up and discussed on a future occasion.

I refer also to the speech made by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler), which I find on page 4194 of the 'Hansard':

It has been charged here to-day, and it has not been denied, that the Prime Minister was in constant consultation with the Papal Alegate in the framing of these educational clauses. I will give the Prime Minister an opportunity to deny that now, and if he denies it I will withdraw all I am going to say; I will not proceed any more.

On page 4195 he is reported to have said :

It took a month to have that clause changed. It was not in the Prime Minister's power to change it apparently to suit his own views within that time. There was a power outside the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice who had to be consulted before the admission was made that that clause might be changed.

I also refer to the speech of the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) which is found on the 'Hansard' on page 4148 :

I want to know if the Minister of Justice had night interviews or any other kind of interviews with the Papal Alegate. I want to know if the Secretary of State has been in communication with the Papal Alegate. I want to know if it is true that the Secretary of State, the Minister of Justice, the Prime Minister and the Papal Alegate were daily holding interviews about this school question and discussing the matter in all its shapes and forms, while the people of the west and the minister from the west and Mr. Haultain were ignored. Is there any wonder why the country has been fanned into a flame when the people discover these things? I would like to know if the Minister of Finance and the Minister of the Interior had any interviews with the Papal Alegate? I do not suppose they will admit it, but all the other gentlemen have to admit it; the Prime Minister had an opportunity of denying it and he did not deny it, and his colleague who followed him was not able to deny it.

I also refer to the statement made by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) as reported in the 'Hansard' on page 4032 :

Can we not believe what appears in the newspapers in this city from day to day that every time there has been a crisis in connection with this Bill the Prime Minister has visited that Papal Delegate, and every change that has been made has been made with his knowledge and on his advice. We are told that the Bill was submitted to him and that the Bill was satisfactory to him, or otherwise it would not have been introduced into this House.

Further on he says :

We find that the provisions of the Bill which were submitted to that Alegate, if we can believe what appears in the press, fasten separate schools on these new provinces for all time to come. That Bill was only accepted by the members from the west when some amendments were proposed, which were submitted to the Papal Delegate and approved of by him before they were submitted to parliament.