

Mr. BELCOURT. What I said was that if there were a thousand Catholics as against five hundred Protestants and two thousand Mormons the Catholics, as a matter of right, under section 11 of the Act of 1875, would have the right to establish schools as they might think fit, and the five hundred Protestants in the minority would be entitled to separate schools of their own. As regards the Jews and Mormons and others, they would have to go either to the Protestant or Catholic schools.

Mr. STOCKTON. That is exactly what I said was the argument of my hon. friend, and it follows that if there were neither Catholics nor Protestants in any locality, there would be no schools for the Jews or Doukhobors or Galicians or whatever else the population might be composed of.

Mr. BELCOURT. I did not say that.

Mr. STOCKTON. Where are they going to get their education if they are not free to establish schools of their own? Surely that is not the interpretation of section 11 of the Act of 1875. Let us read the English language according to the plain meaning of it. It says the majority of taxpayers. Is a Jew not a taxpayer and a citizen of this country just as much as a Protestant or a Roman Catholic? Are you going to invite those people to this country and then deny them the rights of citizenship, although they have to bear the burden of citizenship along with ourselves.

Mr. BELCOURT. That is beside the question altogether.

Mr. STOCKTON. It is not. You are going to put the burden of citizenship on these people, and yet you say that they have not the right to establish public schools in the district in which they live, if they happen to be the majority. That is what he said.

Mr. BELCOURT. No. They might establish a Protestant school or a Catholic school if they wanted to but not a school of their own.

Mr. FOSTER. Where would the rights of conscience be then?

Mr. STOCKTON. For the sake of argument I will say yes they might, but it is not very likely they would under those circumstances. There is another point that I thank my hon. friend for.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to put him a question? Are not the Jews in Montreal under the Protestant Council of public instruction?

Mr. STOCKTON. I do not know.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. Well, they are.

Mr. STOCKTON. Then they are treated as citizens and better treated in the city of Montreal than my hon. friend would treat

them in the Northwest, when these new provinces are organized, according to his argument.

Mr. BELCOURT. Not at all.

Mr. STOCKTON. I am glad my hon. friend sees the weakness of his argument in that respect and is willing to withdraw it.

Mr. BELCOURT. Not at all; I do not withdraw it.

Mr. STOCKTON. He sees now where his argument will lead him and he wants to withdraw it.

Mr. BELCOURT. I do not want to withdraw anything.

Mr. STOCKTON. Then I would ask him to stick to just what he has said.

Mr. BELCOURT. I would not rely upon the hon. gentleman to quote correctly what I have said, because it is evident the hon. gentleman will not state fairly what I did say.

Mr. STOCKTON. I do not wish to state anything unfair with respect to my hon. friend and I presume that 'Hansard' tomorrow will show exactly what he has said; and when he comes to read it in cold type, he will see that the interpretation I put on his argument is exactly correct and in accord with what I have stated.

Mr. BELCOURT. Not at all.

Mr. STOCKTON. I have to thank my hon. friend for another argument he has made to-night. He says that the judges and the courts would put the same interpretation upon this Act that my hon. friend the leader of the opposition and the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) would put upon it.

Mr. BELCOURT. I said they might. I did not say they would.

Mr. STOCKTON. Does he say they would not? I understood him to say they would.

Mr. FOSTER. He withdraws that.

Mr. STOCKTON. Does he withdraw that or will he stick to what he said?

Mr. BELCOURT. Perhaps my hon. friend thinks he is lending to the dignity of parliament by this manner of carrying on discussion. If my hon. friend wishes a passage of arms of that kind, he may proceed but I shall not lend myself to that line of argument.

Mr. STOCKTON. I am lending myself to the arguments which I understood he made.

Mr. BELCOURT. I would not offer a challenge of that kind to my hon. friend because I would not be in it with him.