

and that the trustees if they so desired it must engage a teacher of their religious persuasion. Now look how that would work out; suppose there were sixty children in the district, then one-quarter of those would have one teacher and the other forty or forty-five would have one teacher, yet under that direction the trustees would be required to pay their equal share of taxes for the Catholic teacher who was only teaching fifteen children. I submit that this is a most unjust proposal and one that should not be entertained. If that meeting was not brought about I ask why the rumour has not been denied. I submit that it is up to His Excellency that he should set himself right upon it. Here are two men holding honourable positions, standing high in their province, men who have the confidence of their province, and they state distinctly that that meeting took place and that that proposition was made. Did the First Minister know about that meeting or did he not? That is the question to be decided. If he did not know then I submit that the Papal delegate was going beyond his proper sphere in making that proposition and therefore taking it in any light you can it was an improper thing to do; it was wrong to make the proposition. He told them according to this report that if they agreed to put this clause in, it would expedite the enlargement of the province. What does that mean? Does it not carry out the statements that have been made in the past over and over again that Manitoba need not expect any extension of territory unless she agreed to separate schools, and here we have a proposition made that proves beyond a doubt that this was the case. I say again that we in this House object to any interference whatever in connection with church or state. We refuse to allow any foreign potentate to take any part in our legislation or to dictate how our children shall be educated in any part of this fair Dominion of ours.

Now in this age of the world when church and state are being separated in France, we in Canada are binding them together. I submit that is a state of affairs that should not exist. It has been said that in the United States, because they have national schools where no religion is taught, the people have become unchristian, and we are pointed to the eastern countries where state church schools have existed for so long. I have travelled through those eastern countries myself, I have seen the sun rise and set in many lands, and in travelling through them I have observed the way in which the Sabbath was kept, and have endeavoured to learn something of the results of the church schools which prevail there. I found that those eastern countries have not been going ahead as the United States has. Spain has had church schools for centuries, and to-day Spain is one of the dying nations of the world. France has had church schools,

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and to-day she is severing all connection between church and state, and as a result of establishing national schools I believe we will see France rise amongst the nations of the world. It is true that in the United States where there are no separate schools, there are divorce laws, and lynchings and many other problems that are difficult to solve; nevertheless the United States stands to-day among the foremost nations of the world. As regards Sabbath observance, it is in those countries where church schools prevail that you will find the Sabbath most generally violated, theatre going and all kinds of amusements are carried on on that day. If you want to find a Christian nation you will find one that observes the Sabbath. Where will you find the Sabbath as well observed as it is in this fair Dominion of ours? You will find it observed just as well in those provinces that have national schools as in those that have separate schools. I am not prepared to say that there is any difference. But I think we can boast that we have a Christian people in this Dominion, who observe the Sabbath better than in any other country in the world.

Therefore, I say, that in building up this great country we are making history, and we must carefully procure the greatest freedom to the greatest number of people. We must give those new provinces provincial rights, we must give them all the freedom they have a right to expect at our hands. Sir, the time will come, whether it is this year or next year, when the free and independent electors of this Dominion will assert themselves. We have seen petitions coming from every part of this Dominion, the table has groaned beneath their weight. We have seen public meetings passing resolutions in almost every province in the Dominion, protesting against forcing separate schools upon these new provinces. There is an awakening amongst the free and independent electors such as never existed in this Dominion before, and it will go on and increase. Exception has been taken to the petitions that have been presented and to the public meetings that have been held. Sir, that is the only way in which the people can express their opinions when no election is going on, it is only by petitions and by public meetings passing resolutions that they can make their voice heard. Then we find that the newspapers from one end of this Dominion to the other, except in the province of Quebec, have condemned this legislation. The 'Globe,' the organ of the Reform party, is just as strong on this question as the Conservative newspapers. I venture to say that if we could have now an expression of opinion at the polls, we would find Reformers and Conservatives going to the polls side by side and shoulder to shoulder in every constituency in Ontario;