

children. They can fill the schools. I am glad of it and they are entitled to great credit for it? How many families are there to the mile square in the Northwest Territories? Taking the ordinary farm that is owned up there you would have but four families. How many miles square of that territory will it require to provide children enough to fill a school? Do you not see if you divide the people up according to religious belief in one locality, part Protestant and part Roman Catholic, you reduce the number of available people to support a school there, and therefore it may be quite impossible to carry on such an educational system as would be quite suitable and easily carried on in the province of Quebec. What do we find in regard to the same inquiry in Manitoba and somewhat similar conditions exist up there? How many children have they in their schools in the province of Manitoba? I have the list for 1894: Woodlands nine, Ossowo five, Oakland eight, White Haven six, Silver Creek nine, West Oakland seven, and I find that the average attendance is about four. There is not one school in fifty that has an average attendance of ten. What is that caused by? By the sparseness of the population. The people have their farms in the west larger than they have their farms in Quebec and larger than they have their farms in Ontario, and therefore there are fewer settlers in the different school sections. Why is it that separate schools can never be worked out successfully in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories unless it be in the villages and towns? It is due to the fact that you have only four families to the mile and when you divide them, there are only two Catholic and two Protestant families. They are thus separated and there is no support for the schools. The burden becomes too great. It is too onerous. If they get up schools at all they must hire inferior teachers because the salaries they pay must be very low and the result of this is a poor school and injustice to the children who get the only education they will ever get in such schools. I draw attention to this to show the conditions that exist in the Northwest Territories and I ask what justification there is for the people and the clergy of the province of Quebec, where the conditions are entirely different, where the conditions are such as would enable them to keep up separate schools, to insist that separate schools shall be enforced upon these people in the Northwest Territories? In my judgment there is none. Are the people of Quebec capable of being the best judges? They are far removed from the country, they know little about the conditions or otherwise I am sure very many of them would take a different view of the matter.

Mr. BRODEUR. Would my hon. friend allow me to ask him a question? He says that the people of the province of Quebec

Mr. SPROULE.

are asking for this legislation. He has no evidence of that. Is he able to explain to us how it is that some years ago he voted in favour of forcing the government of the Northwest Territories to establish separate schools in those territories?

Mr. SPROULE. When?

Mr. BRODEUR. My hon. friend must know it.

Mr. SPROULE. I never voted to my knowledge on that question. If the question had been raised I would have voted against it.

Mr. BRODEUR. A Bill was introduced some years ago when my hon. friend was in the House providing that separate schools should be provided in the Northwest Territories and he did not say anything against such a provision in the Bill.

Mr. SPROULE. That was in 1875 before I was a member of this parliament. If it had been proposed when I was here I certainly would have opposed it. It is true that the Act has been amended once or twice since but the question of schools has never been raised.

Mr. BRODEUR. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. When he was in the House in 1880 the same provision was introduced in a Bill which was then placed before the House. But it was introduced by a Tory and he never said one word against it.

Mr. SPROULE. I was not aware of any such provision having been introduced, but if I had been I would have voted against it.

Mr. BRODEUR. In 1880 section 9 of the Bill which was then introduced provided that:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council or the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative assembly, as the case may be, shall have such powers to make ordinances for the government of the Northwest Territories as the Governor in Council may from time to time confer upon him; provided always that such powers shall not at any time be in excess of those conferred by the ninety-second and ninety-third sections of the British North America Act, 1867, upon the legislatures of the several provinces of the Dominion.

Section 10 provides that:

When and so soon as any system of taxation shall be adopted in any district or portion of the Northwest Territories, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the consent of the council or assembly, as the case may be, shall pass all necessary ordinances in respect to education—

Mr. SPROULE. That is a re-enactment of the old law.

Mr. BRODEUR—(reading).

—but it shall therein be always provided that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of the Northwest Territories, or any lesser portion or subdivision thereof, by what-