

by the trustees and by the Mormon majority would have a very great personal influence in inculcating in the minds of the children the religious tenets of the Mormon people. It may be said: What of it? They could not practice polygamy under our Dominion laws. True enough, and we are glad they cannot, but they might influence a Protestant boy or two, a Methodist boy or two, a Presbyterian boy or two, an Anglican boy or two, a Baptist boy or two, to begin to believe in the precepts of the Mormon doctrine, and although they could not practise polygamy in the Dominion of Canada they could go to Utah, or Salt Lake City, and there become followers of the late Brigham Young and Joe Smith. I am sure that the members of this House would not be inclined to allow anything of that kind, and that being so we should have the school clauses so carefully framed that the Mormons would not be able to avail of them for their own ends. It would be no credit to us as Canadians if we should raise up young men here to go off as recruits to that Mormon population in the United States which has caused so much trouble, and which has actually become so strong as to send a representative to the House of Congress. I am glad to say that the members of congress, as would no doubt the members of this House under similar circumstances, did not feel comfortable in having such a member sitting with them, and excluded him from that body. But, it behooves us to be careful in Canada because already we find that one of these newspapers has said that the Mormons are likely to control two seats in the legislative assembly of Alberta, and it may not be many years before they might send a representative to the Canadian House of Commons. I feel that there should be no privilege given to the Mormons under the school laws which would tend to strengthen them in these practices which are so repulsive to the vast majority of the people of this country. I feel that any Canadian government, whether Conservative or Reform, would blush to think that they would even turn the key that would open the door that would permit the Mormons to teach their doctrine in separate schools. I believe that every hon. gentleman on the government side of the House and on the opposition side of the House too; I believe that the First Minister and the hon. gentlemen who sit with him on the treasury benches will agree with me when I say: It is a glorious thing for any man to have one good helpmate through life, and that one good helpmate is quite sufficient to take the best possible care of any one respectable man in the Dominion of Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. KENNEDY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Elson) has read one clause from the

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school ordinance, but I would ask him to read the succeeding clause which qualifies it.

Mr. ELSON. A great deal has been said in this debate with regard to standing on the rock of the constitution, I believe in that. I believe it is right to stand on the rock of the constitution in this Autonomy Bill, but there seems to be some uncertainty as to the power that the federal government has under the constitution. Some members have suggested that it would be well to submit this measure to the Privy Council in England so that we might learn just what powers we have in granting this Autonomy, and I believe myself that would be a wise course for us to take.

I think it was the hon. Postmaster General (Sir William Mulock) who said that we should look at the spirit of the constitution rather than the letter of the constitution. I have noticed, in my limited experience, that when men get into difficulty and become entangled in the law, they find before they get out of it that the law is carried out to the very letter rather than in the spirit, especially when their treasury is considerably depleted.

Now, Mr. Speaker, so far as I am concerned, I stand as firm as a rock against separate schools. I hold that the public school, the national school, is the right school for this country. Of course, as the separate school is established in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, we must be satisfied with it; I am not complaining of that. But I feel that it is the duty of both Protestants and Roman Catholics to be united as much as possible in friendly intercourse, each enjoying his own religious beliefs, and moving on together with the one great object of building up a great nation in the Dominion of Canada.

In conclusion, I am in favour of giving the Northwest autonomy. If the right hon. the First Minister will not delay this measure until we can obtain the information, which I am sure many members on the government side of the House, as well as many on the opposition side, would like to have from the highest authority, then we shall have to vote on the Bill when the proper time comes. In giving autonomy to the people of the Territories, I believe in giving them full autonomy. Let them have self-government, not only in the matter of their municipal affairs, but in the management of their public lands and in the control and management of their educational system. It is my intention to support the amendment put forward by the hon. leader of the opposition. I feel strong on the question of provincial rights. I believe in equal rights to all and special favours to none. I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for so kindly using your influence in keeping such splendid order in the House, and, through you, I want to thank the hon. members of the House for the kind attention they have given to my remarks.