

Changing from denominational schools to separate schools.

—which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this Act under the terms of chapters 29 and 30 of the Ordinances of the Northwest Territories passed in the year 1901.

Although this is put forward as an amendment to subsection 1 it is practically a new provision, because it provides for separate schools and for a state of things existing at the date of the passing of the Act, instead of 'at the union.' It is provided, however, that section 93 of the British North America Act shall apply and the first subsection of that section deals with questions of this kind, and thus we have introduced by the Act now before the House substantially all of section 93 of the British North America Act with a rider such as I have just quoted. If it is correct, as the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) argues that the ordinances have no effect and that the law of 1875 is still in force in the Territories the result will be that by this Act and we will be imposing upon the Northwest Territories separate schools to the most extreme type to which they have attained at any time since 1875. The people of the Northwest Territories will have to accept this position at the instance of the minority whether they like it or not. We had yesterday produced in this House a statement made by the Hon. Mr. Rogers in reference to an interview with the Papal ablegate. Yesterday we had also read in the House the statement which the Papal ablegate gave to the press. In that statement we are told by the ablegate that the reason for the interview with Mr. Campbell—was that he had a previous acquaintance with Mr. Campbell. Now, no one pretends for an instant that there was anything wrong in the Papal ablegate having interviews with either of these gentlemen, Mr. Rogers or Mr. Campbell, if he sees fit. The question of significance yesterday was, and the question to-day is whether or not the representative of the Holy See was interfering unduly with the affairs of Canada and was endeavouring by means of certain propositions which he made to those representatives of Manitoba to bring about a state of things which he desired. Hon. gentlemen of the government yesterday sought to convey the impression that the Papal ablegate had no ulterior design of any kind and that it was only a private interview which the Papal ablegate had sought because he had had a previous acquaintance with Mr. Colin Campbell. I propose to read what Mr. Colin Campbell says in reference to that matter, and hon. gentlemen will recall how much credence was placed upon the word of Mr. Colin Campbell, everybody certified for him and everybody sneered at Hon. Mr. Rogers. I shall now quote from an interview which has been had with Mr. Campbell:

Mr. LENNOX.

Have you anything to say as far as Monseigneur Sbarretti is concerned? asked your correspondent.

'I think all essential facts have been brought out' answered the Attorney General. I never met His Excellency prior to meeting him in Ottawa, nor did I ever have any communication with him, directly or indirectly. His Excellency is under misapprehension in thinking he met me before. The communication and memorandum which I received from him I duly delivered and communicated as he requested me to do to my colleagues. I do not see that there is any conflict in statement made by his excellency and that of my colleague, Mr. Rogers.

The request of His Excellency was certainly to be conveyed to my colleagues, and it could not be considered in any way as private. The letter of invitation is as follows:

Apostolic Delegation, Ottawa,  
February 20, 1905.

Hon. Colin Campbell, Attorney General of  
Manitoba, Russell House, Ottawa.

Honourable Sir,—I am directed by His Excellency Monseigneur Sbarretti, Apostolic delegate to Canada, to write to you to say that he would be pleased to see you before your return to Manitoba. If you could find it convenient to come to the delegation, you will kindly let me know if you can come and when you will be pleased to do so.

I am yours very truly,

ALEARD A. SINNOTT, Sec.

Now there are other aspects of the case which require attention to-day. We have this fact brought very painfully to our minds that not only has the First Minister developed lately a peculiarly tyrannical disposition, a desire for more power and a desire to manage the affairs of this country without seeking the constitutional advice of his associates something for which perhaps he may not be altogether accountable, but he has also developed a peculiar lack of memory, an unfortunate lack of memory, because, I can attribute some things he has said and done to nothing else. Nobody would question that the right hon. gentleman was perfectly honest in telling what occurred, I would not at all events, for I have too much respect for the fact that he was premier of the Dominion of Canada to say anything of that kind, but I do point out that there have been some fatal lapses of memory lately and many of them are brought forcibly to light in connection with this matter which is important in itself, involves as well the vital question of whether we shall have a proper system of government in this country or be controlled by outside influences, sinister and improper to the last degree. Now turning to the beginning of the statement of Mr. Campbell I read:

Your correspondent called upon Attorney General Campbell to-day and asked him whether he had any reply to make in reference to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement in the House.