

for Heaven's sake let us as two-hundred and fifteen intelligent men, put our heads together this night and settle this question of education in the Northwest Territories.

I was looking over the several ordinances of the Northwest Territories the other day. They are rather voluminous, I have not had time to study them since I received them, but while not pretending to say that there is anything in what I am about to say to cause any hon. gentleman to change his mind about the true purport of this Bill, still it is possible there are some who do not understand hon. gentlemen opposite as well as we do and have less confidence in them than we have. Some people outside, in the country, if they should read these ordinances might be suspicious. Clause 10 provides :

All general regulations respecting the inspection of schools, the examination, training, licensing, and grading of teachers, courses of study, teachers' institutes, and text and reference books shall before being adopted or amended be referred to the council for its discussion and report.

A rather important clause you would think covering almost everything touching education. Clause 11 provides :

The council shall consider such matters as may be referred to it as hereinbefore provided for by the commissioner, and may also consider any question concerning the educational system of the Territories as to it may seem fit, and shall report thereon to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Still further powers. I do not wish to misrepresent a single word, and therefore call attention to the fact that this educational clause with these broad powers is really an educational adviser to the educational commissioners of the Territories. I do not pretend to say, and hope I shall not be accused afterwards of misleading the House by trying to make hon. members believe, that this council has power to do everything that it has power to report upon. But, when we find a member of the government given an advisory clause in some special line like education, we can well believe that he would feel bound, except for very good reasons to the contrary, to follow the advice they gave. As the present Prime Minister of Ontario, Mr. Whitney, said in advocating an advisory board : he said the minister will not be bound to take their opinion, but he should be assuming a grave responsibility if he ventured to differ from the educational board selected for him. So, with regard to the educational clause of the Northwest Territories, I do not say that their findings are absolutely conclusive but I do say that they are entitled to the greatest weight, and that in the practical carrying out of education they would be found to have tremendous weight. And how is this clause composed ? Let me read the section on that point :

There shall be an educational council consisting of five persons at least two of whom shall be Roman Catholics to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who shall recommend such remuneration as the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall decide.

Now, Sir, I make no comment ; I find no fault. Still, we find an ordinance of this kind appointing a board of five, of whom two at least must be—the whole five may be—Roman Catholics. And we have been told of the schools of that part of the country that there are, as I understand, ten or twelve separate schools and 1,000 or 1,200 public schools, for the population is overwhelmingly Protestant. Is it any wonder that some people dislike crystallizing into law for all time to come this provision for a board of five members two of whom at least must be Roman Catholics ? Without a word derogatory to my Roman Catholic friends or to any gentleman in the ministry, let me assume that one of the three non-Catholics takes no more interest in education than one of the Protestant members of the sub-committee, Sir William Mulock, did in the present Bill, and where would the rights of the Protestant majority be ? We have a mixed population there. Give the Roman Catholics all, and more than all, they are justly entitled to, because they are a minority. But surely if the tables were turned my Roman Catholic friends would object to have it provided for all time to come that two of the members of the educational council must be members of the opposite faith.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I would like to ask him a question. Can these two members of the educational council vote ?

Mr. NORTHRUP. I see nothing here to prevent it. They all stand on the same footing.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. But can the members of the council reach an effective decision, or have they only advisory powers ?

Mr. NORTHRUP. I was very careful, in introducing the subject, to explain the powers that they had not, so that I might not be accused of misleading the House. So, I think I am justified in what I said, that, while I do not claim that this council has the power to crystallize into law what they wish on these subjects, yet the commissioner of education must be expected to be guided to a large extent by the decisions of those selected for that important trust.

Then, looking a little further—and I merely mention this as an illustration of something in the Act that goes a little further than the Minister of Finance thought—I find ordinance 31 which regulates the public aid to schools. There is no religious point involved in this ; it is simply a pract-