

bers of the cabinet of Manitoba as well. Let me call attention to the position between the premier of the Northwest Territories and the government. It is admitted to be a vexed question as to what school system shall prevail in the Northwest Territories, and whether there shall be the vindication or the subversion of provincial rights. That matter was only referred to incidentally and not discussed at all the very day when the Bill was introduced with the original clause 16, which caused so much trouble, and which is causing so much trouble in the House to-day in its amended form. The right hon. Prime Minister thinks that he was perfectly justified in treating the premier of the Northwest Territories in a way that has been often described in this House, so much so that he cannot fail to realize that the people of the west are feeling that they have been slighted through their representative because of the manner in which he has been treated. Enough has probably been said about that, but new matters arise to-day in connection with the same kind of treatment meted out to the representatives of Manitoba. We have had a certain amount of quibbling by hon. members on the other side of the House as to whether or not the premier did or did not promise to give these gentlemen another interview. I do not care about that. From the evidence I read this afternoon, from other evidence and from the intrinsic evidence of the case, I am convinced that the country is satisfied that there was an understanding at the time these gentlemen parted from the premier and we know the unfortunate position of the right hon. gentleman, putting it in the best way we can. When we go to the records, when we go to 'Hansard' and take the language of the right hon. gentleman himself no more unfortunate condition, no more unfortunate position as regards the Dominion in relation to the provinces could possibly exist than that which is recorded at page 4110 of the unrevised 'Hansard' in the language of the right hon. gentleman himself. It comes to this that he left these gentlemen upon the understanding and with the statement that he would let them know in a few days what his policy would be, and he never let them know until he introduced his Bill into the House on the 21st February. Is that the way to treat provinces? It is a little province, it is true. It is said to have offended the government, but it is said to have pleased the masses of the people in this country. The right hon. gentleman said that it should have no extension of its boundaries. It is a discussable question, I admit, whether the boundaries shall be extended or not, but I claim that for the provinces that they must be treated as sovereignties even by the sovereign and federal parliament of Canada. When the right hon. gentleman said, as he told us, that he would let them know in a few days and when he came

before the House and announced his policy without letting them know he was not treating them as the representatives of that province deserved to be treated. This is the language of the hon. gentleman:

What are the facts? As stated yesterday, We received in the month of January, towards the end of it, the request of the Manitoba government for a conference. We agreed to that conference, and it took place on the 17th of February. There were present a subcommittee of council and the question was discussed.

Now we come to what the premier says he did.

We told the delegates that they should have an answer at an early date. That answer they had.

Where?

That answer they had on the floor of this House four days later, on the 21st of February, when I introduced the Autonomy Bills, and in the course of my explanation stated our position with regard to the boundaries of Manitoba was clearly defined.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have this state of things that the premier of the Dominion, having invited the representatives of Manitoba to a conference, having partially discussed the matter with them and not having determined his policy, tells these gentlemen that he will let them know in a few days, he determines his policy, he decides that he will not extend the boundaries of Manitoba to the west which they have asked him to do, and having determined that he does not think it worth while to let these gentlemen know, does not think it worth while to send a letter to them even to announce his decision, but allows them to get it with the body of the public through the newspapers when announcing his policy in connection with the Bills which he was introducing on the 21st of February.

Now, I come to the main point to which I shall direct my attention this evening and which, will, I think, stamp it indelibly upon the minds of the people, at all events upon the minds of the members of the House is that it is no accidental condition that we are dealing with to-day; that the manner in which the whole Autonomy question has been conducted and the whole line of policy pursued by the premier are the result of a deliberate scheme, of a deliberate plan by which the Territories were to be deceived upon this school question. We know very well with what unseemly haste, in so far as the premier of the Northwest Territories is concerned, the right hon. gentleman introduced the Bill, and with what unfortunate haste as regards the then absent members of his government. There is no evidence even that the Bill, after having been prepared by the sub-committee, was submitted to the Council before it was introduced into the House. I take the responsibility of the statement that there was a plan