

not hear him give the explanation which he told us that his co-religionists had a right to expect. If there is one good reason that can be given for the change in the policy of the government other than that stated by 'Le Canada,' 'Le Soleil,' and the other Liberal papers in the province of Quebec, that the government was afraid of the narrowness of mind of the English-speaking people of this country, let us hear it. I ask, where is the appeal to prejudice to be found? In the words of the hon. member for Labelle, or in the English speaking organs of which the Solicitor General said he was one of the inspirers. In voting against the government on this question, I do not think I abandon the Liberal policy of this government. On the contrary, as I said before, it is the government that has abandoned its policy, and it seems to me that our Tory friends on the other side of the House are more consistent than the government because they for their part always denied to the minority of the Northwest any right to justice. What do we ask? I will quote what was said by my hon. friend from South Perth (Mr. McIntyre), who is opposed to separate schools in the Northwest. He said:

To say to me that the Bill gives little to Roman Catholic minorities is not in itself a recommendation. I am not seeking to find how little I can give to the minority in this case, but I am urging on the government the desirability of ascertaining what the constitution does give. If the constitution itself, according to the decision of the courts should give more to the minority than the present Bill gives why should we seek to deny that to them?

Well, Sir, is there any doubt that the law of 1875, which is still the constitution of the Northwest, gives more to the Catholics than the amendment which we have today? I do not think there is any doubt, and I protest against the statement of the Solicitor General that we are making an appeal to revolt because we ask for our rights. If I spoke my own language, I might be too violent; but I will quote the language of one of the ministers of the present government, the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Brodeur), who, speaking in the House of Commons in 1894 on Mr. Tarte's motion for the production of documents relating to separate schools in Manitoba and the Northwest, said this:

(Page 1993). The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) in the course of his speech said that the Catholics of the Northwest and the French Canadians of the Territories had no grievances against the ordinance of 1892. I must say that my hon. friend is entirely in error in taking that position and in making that declaration. I will prove in a moment that the Catholics have received from the Northwest legislature the most grievous treatment that could be received by a minority from a legislature.

(Page 1997). Since a few years everything has been done by those who control the government of the Northwest to destroy the rights of the Catholics in that country. . . . My hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) asserted—  
Mr. A. LAVERGNE.

ed the other day that the teaching of French stands in the same position to-day as it did in 1888. I deny that assertion entirely. My hon. friend is quite mistaken. I will prove conclusively that the law has been disregarded in the Northwest in order virtually to destroy the use of the French language.

(Page 2008). It will be seen from this that according to the ordinance of 1888, the French language could be used in the separate schools during the whole course, but according to the ordinance of 1892 French is only permissible for small children of five, six, seven or eight years old. It therefore cannot be denied our French Canadian people have been deprived of the rights which they had under the ordinance of 1888.

(Page 2009). Under the ordinance of 1888, French Canadians could pass their examinations for teaching in the French language, but now, as you will find by the assertion of the secretary of the council for public instruction, they cannot do so. If the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) does not find any grievances in all the facts I have brought before this House, then I must say that he is a very difficult man to satisfy.

(Page 2010). My hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has said: You are not deprived of your schools. You have your separate schools. No, we have no separate schools now in the Northwest. The right of having separate your schools. You have your separate schools, choosing our books, appointing our inspectors, and appointing our examiners. All these rights are now denied by the ordinance of 1892; and consequently we have no longer separate schools in the Northwest.

(Page 2014). It is very much to be regretted that men who call themselves liberal have thought fit to abolish separate schools in Manitoba, and the use of the French language. But there is one thing in that connection which affords me great pleasure, and that is that when the Manitoba government proclaimed that policy, all the Catholic Liberals in Manitoba rose as one man to protest against it. And those who had portfolios in that government resigned their positions. Do we see the same thing today in the federal government? Do we see the French Canadian members of the cabinet resigning their seats when they find the government of which they are members abolishing separate schools in the Northwest? No; there is no danger. It is true that Martin the Liberal, has abolished separate schools in Manitoba; but the French members of the Manitoba government resigned when that was done. Here we see the federal government virtually abolishing the separate schools of the Northwest, and, at the same time, we see the French Canadian members keeping their seats in the cabinet, and, consequently, approving what the government has done.

(Page 2015). Is it not to be deplored that in this country the French Canadians and Catholics should be treated as they have been? In the province of Quebec, where we have a majority, we have treated the Protestants with justice. They have no complaint to make against us. Why should they not give us in Manitoba and the Northwest the same right that we give to the Protestant minority in Quebec?

(Page 2016). I will ask my hon. friends on this side who come from Ontario to be just to the Catholics of the Northwest, as their great leaders in provincial politics are just to