

nominal schools, because a public school may be a Catholic school under the law of 1875, if the majority is Catholic, and the minority separate from the majority form a separate school which might have been a Protestant school in a Catholic region, or a Catholic school in a Protestant region.

When the ordinances of 1888 and subsequent years came into force, the denominational schools were abolished altogether and public schools were established in every section of the province. Under the Autonomy Bill, each school district under this law has a right to a public school, but the public school is a neutral school. There is no religion taught in such schools except where there is a certain portion of the population who may have a right to a separate school; but in that school, religion may be only taught after half-past three in the afternoon.

Hon. Mr. TALBOT—In all of the schools, religion can be taught after half-past three, and in none of the schools may religion be taught before that hour.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—There are no more denominational schools; they are all public schools. The separate schools are not separated from the majority on account of religion.

Hon. Mr. TALBOT—They may be, but they are treated so justly in that country that they do not want separation.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Those lands were granted when denominational schools existed, and when lands were sold for school purposes the proceeds of the sales were kept for the schools as they existed at that time. The law has been changed and neutral schools have succeeded denominational schools, and now the proceeds of sales of these lands are to be given as the law provides. That is the policy of this government. I would have reserved the lands and used the proceeds as the constitutional rights of the people required. We must submit, I suppose, but I do not think the Dominion parliament should dispose of those lands against the constitutional rights of the people who at that time inhabited those provinces.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—The explanatory note of the original Bill said that it is also desired to avoid emphasizing the different educational systems, and to bring this in conformity with the Saskatchewan Act. It appears to me that the money given to the provinces has to be distributed to the schools organized in the provinces, and that ought to be sufficient protection that the funds arising from the sales of the lands will be properly applied.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is a distinct recognition of separate schools in the Alberta Act.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—But under the law of 1875, in a school district where the Catholics are in a majority, they had a right to have the schools they choose.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—A fair compromise has been made; what is the use of discussing it.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Because you are affecting the funds.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We are not affecting the funds.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Under the law of 1875, the majority in any school division, whether Catholic or Protestant, had a right to have the school they choose. They have not that right now. They have public schools, but not denominational schools.

Hon. Mr. TALBOT—They can have separate schools yet.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—A separate school is not necessarily a denominational school.

Hon. Mr. ROY—What is the use of discussing that now? The Autonomy Bill is passed.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I know the Autonomy Bill is passed, but there are grave doubts as to whether it is constitutional.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—What I object to is that without consulting the three provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, a fund which has been established since the acquisition of that territory by Canada for educational purposes should now, without notice to those provinces, be diverted from the channels then es-