

# Dual Language and Federal Government :

A SPEECH DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON FEBRUARY 12, 1890,

— BY —

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN, M.P.

Mr. McCARTHY moved second reading of Bill (No. 10) to further amend the Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter 50, respecting the North-West Territories.

Mr. DAVIN moved in amendment :

That this Bill be not now read the second time, but that it be resolved, That it is expedient that the Legislative Assembly of the North-West Territories be authorized to deal with the subject of this Bill by Ordinance or enactment, after the next general election for the said Territories.

He said: This, Sir, is after all, a North-West question; but I need hardly say that I am quite aware that it is the privilege, and even the duty, of every member of this House to concern himself with any public question whatsoever; and I congratulate the North-West that my hon. and learned friend (Mr. McCarthy) has taken a tardy interest in our welfare. I am not aware that he ever took a very great interest in our welfare until very lately. He himself tells us that he sat in this House time and again when this measure was before it, and that he actually did not know that the 110th clause existed until the spring of last year. Well, in an ordinary member that would be an extraordinary thing, but in a distinguished advocate it is a marvellous thing indeed. But I think I understand why it is that he has taken this interest in us in the North-West. We had here a question

last year which I do not intend to go into at present, but which has been agitated throughout the country in a manner that I do not think was either edifying or statesmanlike; and I rather think that my hon. and learned friend discovered that, on that question, he had taken an illogical stand, that he found, after defending his position for a considerable time, that the position was indefensible, and in order to let himself down easy, he took up questions that would have been settled in the Territories without his aid or the aid of anybody else outside of those Territories. Now, this speech, to which I had not the honour of listening —

Mr. McCARTHY. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I happened to be in Hamilton at the time, under more auspicious circumstances, but I have read that speech carefully, and the remarkable thing about it is that it is one of a series illustrating the law of evolution, because they go on bit by bit, they repeat themselves considerably, but still at each step, my hon. and learned friend shows that the doctrine of Darwin is applicable even to great politicians, and he illustrates the law of evolution. I said a moment ago that I had not the honour of hearing that speech, but, Sir, I had the honour of