

in Manitoba before 1890 were efficient or otherwise. A great deal of stress has been laid by a member of the Manitoba government—who has been addressing meetings in this part of the Dominion recently, and by a leading exponent of the opposition to the minority in Manitoba in the House of Commons—on what they claim to be the fact that the separate schools existing under the laws of Manitoba before 1890 were very inefficient, I do not think that comes in appropriately, because if these schools were inefficient, the fault lay with the legislature of Manitoba. On them devolved the duty of making the Roman Catholic schools as efficient as the public schools of the province. If there was anything wrong with the management of these schools, the provincial authorities had the power to improve the management and make the school efficient. I would say further that there is not now a question before the country as to whether the minority has a grievance or not. That has been settled by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. They have decided that the minority has a grievance, and that point need not be discussed at any great length. The hon. gentleman from Marquette seems to be of the opinion that that grievance only exists to a modified extent—that there is a portion of the territory now embraced in the province of Manitoba in which there exists no grievance. The hon. gentleman's contention in this respect was very well met by the argument of the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface, and when my hon. friend from Marquette looks into it closely, as no doubt he will, he must see that there is very little in that point. The province of Manitoba, having certain limits, became a province with a constitution. It enlarged its boundaries with the consent of this Parliament and of the portions of territory that were brought in, and as soon as the boundaries were enlarged, the added territory came under the laws of the old province of Manitoba in every respect, and the Separate School Act applied there as well as it did in the old province. Therefore, under the 93rd section of the British North America Act, that part is in precisely the same position, with respect to education, as the older part of Manitoba. Without wishing to indulge in any levity, I might be allowed to illustrate it in this way. The hon. gentleman from Marquette, like most

other men, came into this world without a beard. Since then, he has grown a beard, and although his, like my own, is becoming a little gray, it is part of himself, and he cannot disown it.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Unless you cut it off.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Then it would grow again as long as the hon. gentleman continued to possess vitality. I may say further that there is not now, as far as I can see, any question before the Senate or before the country as to whether this Parliament has power to apply a remedy if the legislature of Manitoba does not. The decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council settles that; it declares that this Parliament has power to apply a remedy and the question, therefore, is narrowed down, and there is not that field for discussion that there has been in former sessions in this House. The question now is shall the remedy come from Manitoba or from the Parliament at Ottawa—that is the real question. It rests in the first place with Manitoba itself. If the legislature of that province fails to find a remedy for the grievance which has been decided to be in existence, it will be equivalent to an abnegation of its functions, and on the Manitoba legislature will devolve the responsibility of any action that the Parliament of Canada may find it necessary to take to remedy the grievance admitted to be in existence. An hon. gentleman who has taken a very great deal of interest in this question, although I think from a wrong point of view, in addressing the House of Commons the other day, took the ground that the legislature of Manitoba had to obey the remedial order to its fullest extent or had to refuse to do anything—that there was no alternative. I think there is no necessity to discuss that question now; it is for the legislature of Manitoba to declare what they will do, and if they make an effort to provide what they conceive to be a remedy, it will be for this Parliament to consider whether that remedy is sufficient or otherwise. I do not think that the remedial order has any such effect as that the legislature of Manitoba must accept it in its entirety or do nothing. The political aspect of the question comes in at this stage. My hon. friend from Halifax, in discussing it the other day, seemed to