

Legislature and endeavored to arrange the school system of each other. For twenty-five years the attempt was made, and for twenty-five years the attempt was a failure, a failure that practically destroyed the legislative powers of the Province. So divided did the people become over educational and other cognate matters that government became an impossibility, and at last the great men of that day regardless of their political views, united to devise a scheme that would relegate educational and other matters of a kindred character to the Local Legislatures rather than to the arbitrament on each occasion of the representatives of the whole people of Canada, and no one subject was with greater unanimity regarded as peculiarly proper to be dealt with by the Provinces affected rather than by the Dominion Parliament than was the subject of Education. (Applause.)

True it is that a reserve power is left to the Dominion Parliament even in the case of education, just as there is reserved power to the Dominion Parliament to disallow every bill that any Local Legislature may pass.

As to how far the Dominion Parliament is warranted in interfering with a Province by substituting the will of the Federal for that of the Local Legislature, as on all questions, extreme views are entertained. There are those who contend that the Dominion Parliament is bound in every case at once to interfere, whilst others contend that in every case the appeal is to be denied. Between these extreme views is the moderate one set forth in the Resolution of the Legislature of Manitoba that interference with Provincial autonomy is only justifiable as a last resort, and they beg the Dominion Parliament to act on this view and stay its hand at least until other and more promising methods have been tried. Shall we, therefore, now press upon the Dominion Parliament the necessity of adopting this safe middle course, or shall we allow them to light the fires of sectarian strife by establishing a precedent which will be a standing invitation to the minority, whether it be a Protestant or Catholic, in each Province of this Dominion continuously to bring their appeals to Ottawa, until the whole Dominion becomes enveloped in one general sectarian conflagration? There can be but one end to such a condition of affairs—the destruction of our Confederation. (Prolonged cheers).