

should have conferred upon them the same rights and privileges in regard to religious instruction as those possessed by the people of the Province of Ontario. The principles of local self-government and the settling of the question of public instruction seemed to him ought to be the cardinal principles of the measure.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the words "Governor-in-Council" in the 8th clause of the Bill meant not the Lieutenant Governor but the GOVERNOR GENERAL. Practically the legislation of the territory would be in the hands of the Government here at Ottawa. The Lieutenant Governor in Council would have power to make only such laws and ordinances as the Bill provided for, and it would be for Parliament, when the population had increased sufficiently, to confer upon them more extensive powers than it was proposed to give them under the present measure. As to the subject of public instruction, it did not in the first place attract his attention, but when he came to the subject of local taxation he was reminded of it. Not having had time before to insert a clause on the subject, he proposed to do so when the Bill was in committee. The clause provided that the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the consent of his Council or Assembly, as the case might be, should pass all necessary ordinances in respect of education, but it would be specially provided that the majority of the rate-payers might establish such schools and impose such necessary assessment as they might think fit; and that the minority of the rate-payers, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, might establish separate schools; and such rate-payers would be liable only to such educational assessments as they might impose upon themselves. This, he hoped would meet the objection offered by the hon. member for South Bruce. There might be some amendments found necessary in the Bill, but he thought it would be found generally speaking to meet the requirements of the country. However, the Government would be very glad to avail themselves as far as possible of such suggestions as might be made to them.

Mr. D. A. SMITH thought the provisions of the Bill before the House were on the whole calculated to do good service in the North-West if honestly and properly carried out. A very great deal depended

upon the administration of the law and upon the character of those who were appointed to carry it out. In this respect they had suffered much in Manitoba. It was well known that sufficient care had not been taken in that respect. He did not say this as a reproach to the right hon. member for Kingston, who, he believed, had under the circumstances done the best he could. At the time there was very little knowledge of the country in Canada, and perhaps even now there was not as much as could be desired. He believed the right hon. gentleman sent to the country those whom he thought best fitted to perform the duties. Much had been done within the past year towards introducing law and good order in that country by sending out an efficient body of police. He said this with the greater pleasure because in the first instance he was afraid they were not very efficient, and so much had been said to the discredit of the force in the early part of the season that they were received with a little distrust; but he had in his possession a letter from a person who had been out just where Major McLEOD was, and which stated that officer was doing his duty excellently. He had cleared the country of the whiskey traders, and it was now peace and quiet where last year it was dangerous for any one to be. He (Mr. SMITH) thought this spoke a great deal for the efficiency of the Mounted Police, and was a strong commentary upon what had already been done for the Government of the country. The means for preserving the peace were formerly quite insufficient. He thought the provisions of the Bill now brought in were calculated to serve the purpose for which the measure was intended for many years to come. At present the Council of the North-West was probably not just exactly such a body as it ought to be. They were under the very great disadvantage of being far removed from such portions of the territory as were at all settled. The principal settlements were 500 or 600 miles from Manitoba, which was quite equal to 3,000 or 4,000 miles in this eastern country, because the means of communication were very bad. He felt that under the circumstances of that country it would be a great benefit to have a Governor and Council within the territory. He did not