

The issue, therefore, is plainly not that of separate schools versus public schools, but as to the terms under which both separate and public schools are to be continued. The Ontario opposition press are putting panic headlines on the front page in a determined effort to arouse popular feeling over what they say is the attempt of the Dominion Government to shackle the new Provinces by imposing separate schools. It is clear that the attitude which Mr. Haultain takes is not antagonistic to the separate schools as they are now established in the Territories, but he claims perfect liberty of action on the part of the new Provinces with respect to the whole question of education subject only to section 93 of the Constitutional Act of 1867 to which he alludes as the Canadian charter. He also claims that the expression "at the union" as applied to the new Provinces would mean the year 1870, the period in which the Northwest Territories were acquired by Canada. That is, Mr. Haultain contends that the territory of the new provinces should be treated the same as if the provinces were created 35 years before they actually had been created.

As stated before in these columns there were established between 1888 and 1905, a period of 17 years, about 16 separate schools in the Northwest Territories. For lack of vitality five of these went out of business, and there are now only nine separate schools in halfbreed districts and two Protestant separate schools.

The leader of the Opposition strongly attacked the Government in the House of Commons on Wednesday and Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied in a short speech in such a manner as to elicit a storm of cheering from his supporters when he sat down.

The whole row turns, of course, on the one question of education. Mr. Haultain claims that due consideration was not given to the school clause, section 16. It was brought up for discussion between the sub-committee of the privy council and

Messrs. Haultain and Bulyea representing the government of the Territories, on Friday, February 17. Mr. Haultain took the ground that section 93 of the B. N. A. Act, quoted above, applied automatically to the new Provinces. This confirms what is stated above, that so far as education is concerned the cry of complete autonomy in education raised in Ontario does not reflect the view put forward by the Premier of the Northwest Territories. By looking back at section 93 it will be seen that the authority conferred with respect to education is limited. Holding the view that is expressed Mr. Haultain contended that it was not necessary to have any education clause in the Bill. The Government, believing that the existing conditions should be continued, held that it was necessary to put in the bill a clause saying that section 93 of the B. N. A. Act did apply, and sub-sections designed to make it clear that existing conditions would be continued. In drafting the sub-section it is possible that they went further than the government intended them to go, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated to the House on Wednesday that if it is possible to amend the clause the government would consider it.

He pointed out that Mr. Haultain differed from the government with regard to the ownership of the public lands, as to whether they should be one or two provinces, and on the question of irrigation, jurisdiction over which is retained by the Dominion because the land is being retained by the Dominion. Sir Wilfrid Laurier pointed out that of all the petitions received by the House concerning the bill only one objection was taken to it, and that was to the education clause. He thought this good proof that the bill had been carefully considered and well digested.

In Wednesday's discussion there was no motion presented to the House by the Opposition, and when the matter had been discussed for some hours the motion to go into supply was carried without a division.