

Hon. Mr. POPE: It is the annual book sent out.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE: If it is the official report, that is a good book.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Is it the report for 1916?

Hon. Mr. POPE: For 1916-17.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE: That is a good book.

Hon. Mr. POPE: It is supposed to be good.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE: Have you quoted it correctly?

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I was anxious to know what the honourable gentleman's argument would be on the motion which he has presented to this Chamber, because he comes from the province of Quebec, which he has held up as being backward in the matter of education in comparison with the other provinces of the Dominion. I have listened to him very carefully. I find that, as a representative of the English-speaking Protestant minority of Quebec, he states that that minority has been treated with consideration and fairness by the majority. The only complaint which he has uttered relates to the division of funds paid into the neutral panel. As honourable gentlemen are aware, we have in Quebec a system of separate schools. My honourable friend claims that it was an error to establish separate schools and to recognize minorities, but he honestly admits that it was the representatives, the most eminent representatives, of the English-speaking minority of Quebec who insisted upon those separate schools being established in that province for their own security and advantage—Sir Alexander Galt and the Hon. Mr. Pope, the honoured and esteemed father of the honourable gentleman himself. This was a condition laid down by the English-speaking minority of the province of Quebec as a sine qua non condition of their acceptance of Confederation. We were then under the Union of the two Canadas, and an agreement was reached and a contract signed, not only by Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, but also between the majority in Quebec, as a special group, and the English-speaking Protestant minority, as a separate group, having its representatives and its special interests to protect. This was the pact of 1867. The legislature of the province of Quebec established a Coun-

cil of Public Instruction, with two sections—one an English-speaking Protestant, or, let us say, a Protestant section, inasmuch as the word "English" is not in the constitution—and the other a Catholic section. I venture to affirm—and I am within the hearing of representatives of the minority in my province—that the Protestant Council of Public Instruction have complete control of the organization of primary and secondary schools and university courses for their own children, absolutely without interference from the majority.

Hon. Mr. POPE: That is according to the regulations.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The school commissions are elected by the people. There are under certain conditions dissentient schools, which may be either Catholic or Protestant, according as the majority or the minority is of one denomination or the other in a certain school district. These schools are administered by the school commissioners under the Council of Public Instruction, for the Protestants and for the Catholics separately, and everything has been administered to the absolute satisfaction of the two groups. I have yet to hear of a complaint that a member of the minority has suffered under that system. The majority has been most careful to do all that it could to give a full measure of justice to the minority, and I am glad to hear my honourable friend say that we of the majority in Quebec have dealt fairly with the minority.

My honourable friend says that when the law was passed and a neutral panel created, to which the taxes of corporations went, to be divided according to population, it did no injustice to anyone inasmuch as the system of corporations was not much developed at that time, but that now, and for a certain number of years past, the neutral panel, in cities and towns, has assumed large proportions. Well, honourable gentlemen know that the situation in Quebec is not similar to that of Ontario. We are not as large a manufacturing province as is Ontario. We have but a few large cities and towns. Take for example the city of Montreal. In the school districts which are covered by the city of Montreal and suburbs, the neutral panel has undoubtedly become important. My honourable friend says that those corporations which come under the neutral panel are comprised mostly of shareholders who are English-speaking and Protestants, and that the moneys should not be divided