

HR
F5515.5
M4

to create local governments. It created them. It gave to them the same high origin that the central government has, that they might not be subject to its encroachment, and it provided for the future admissions by making the Queen's Order in Council in that behalf a part of the Act. Now look at Manitoba. There is not an Act it can pass which may not be overridden by Dominion legislation. (Hear.) It holds its powers by the sufferance of the Canadian Parliament. (Hear.) If we were to pass a Bill at Ottawa, changing the law of succession, it would be invalid in Ontario, because such legislation belongs to the Legislature of Ontario; but in Manitoba it would be valid, because the Local Legislature can only exercise such powers as the Parliament of Canada may choose to allow it to exercise. (Hear.)

HOW THE VALIDITY OF THE MANITOBA ACT MAY BE TESTED.

Now there is this simple rule by which the validity of the Manitoba constitution may be tested. Does it confer any local authority which the Parliament of Canada may not take away? If it does not, it is not federally united to Canada. It is not legally united, for a federal union alone is provided for. (Hear.)

PROVISIONS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED BY THE B. N. A. ACT.

But this is not all. I might pass by the general question as to the power of Canada to admit a province into the Union, and call your attention to the provisions of the B. N. A. Act, which declares the principle of representation according to population shall not be departed from in extending the Union. Manitoba is by the provision entitled to one representative in the House of Commons if in the Union. She is about to send four. (Hear.) No provision was made by the constitution for provincial representation in the Senate for any western province or territory. The circumstances of Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland were known, and they were provided for; but as nothing definite could be known of the western provinces and territories, this matter of senatorial representation was left to be provided for by further Imperial legislation, when the necessity should arise. The Government, without any authority, provided for the appointment of three. (Hear.) If you look at the act of federation, you will see

that that body is intended to represent the Provinces in the Parliament of Canada, and that their representation is in proportion to their importance. Now if the Parliament of Canada can appoint three they can appoint thirty. (Hear.) The Senate could be swamped by appointments professedly made for a single province. (Hear.) It is out of the question that there can be a limitation of the powers of appointment for one Province, and no limitation as to another. (Hear.) Well, sir, the question may be asked, what of all this? what practical mischief has it engendered? I might content myself with saying that we ought never to be indifferent to an illegal course because we do not foresee all the mischiefs which are likely to flow from it. (Hear.) Those practical politicians who can see no wrong in a government violating the law unless it is accompanied by some great calamity, may think this a trifling matter. I don't think it so. Who could have predicted the uses of electricity upon its discovery. "Those men," says Franklin, "who are impatiently asking what evils are to flow from a wrong principle of action are in point of sense on a level with those who are asking about the utility of infants, forgetting they are to be the men and women of the future." But, sir, I will endeavor to answer the enquiry. I say it engendered the disturbance in the territory, it engendered the expense of the expedition, and it has laid the basis for active federal encroachment upon local authority. (Cheers.) Leaving out of view every other matter, this alone is sufficient to justify a general public judgment condemnatory of the government. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Mills then alluded in eloquent terms to the question of the extension of the franchise, and the character of the measure of last session. Mr. Mills is a strong believer in trusting the people, and in interesting and educating the young men of this country in public affairs. This can only be done, he contends, by giving them the franchise.

Mr. Mills was loudly applauded on resuming his seat. Ald. Campbell moved a vote of thanks for the eloquent and instructive address, which was duly seconded, carried unanimously, and appropriately responded to.

The meeting then dispersed.

meant a
nd a local
ult to un-
on of the
when ap-
and very
territories.
SYSTEM.
ystem that
be subject
eral go-
no federa-
ity is the
ity is de-
an Order
origin to
The Par-
vided for
have pro-
rived from
it should
upon cer-
these pro-
part of the
ncil. But
legislation
by the or-
ples of the
on of some
perial Act,
d from em-
It is quite
n embrac-
bsequently
Order in
of govern-
e Ordr in
effectually
pen to the
orth West
and all we
r it a colo-
eration did
ada power

it