

uniform; there was only one department of education, one course of study, one set of books, one staff of inspectors and all uniform under Government control. No religious teaching or religious emblems were permitted during school hours; only in the half hour after the close of school might such teaching be provided. The separate schools were really national schools with the minimum of ecclesiastical control.

Curtailed System B. N. A. Act Would Have Automatically Imposed.

In 1905 when legislation was passed by the Parliament of Canada establishing the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan out of the North-West Territories, it was argued that Section 93 of the British North America Act would apply and the Separate school system as established by the Act of 1875 would be continued and the provinces would be obliged to re-establish the system set up in 1884. After full discussion by lawyers contending on legal difficulties the ordinances of 1901 passed by the Haultain Government were embodied in the Saskatchewan and Alberta Autonomy Bills and the school system (of 1901) above described was maintained and established.

In Saskatchewan since the Act of 1905 was passed provincial general elections have been held in 1905, 1908, 1912 and 1917, with the result that the Liberal party was on each occasion returned by a large majority. In Alberta similar results followed the elections of 1905, 1909, 1913 and 1917. In the Federal elections of 1908 and 1911 the Liberals obtained large majorities at the polls in these two provinces. It might be pointed out that the Roman Catholic population of these two provinces by the census of 1911 was but 18 per cent. of the population of Saskatchewan and 17 per cent. of Alberta, and many of the adult male population had not the right to vote at the above elections as they were not long enough resident in Canada.

The determining vote was therefore made up of Protestants from the Eastern provinces who settled in the West.

Proposed French Language in Legislatures of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

When the above provisions were about to be adopted in the House of Commons, July, 1905, the Nationalists then in the House moved that the law of 1875 be reaffirmed but this was voted down by every Liberal present, and by a large number of the Conservatives. The Nationalists mustered but 6 votes.

On July 5th, 1905, as will be seen by a reference to the Journals of the House of Commons, Volume 40, page 463, a motion was presented by Mr. Monk, the first portion of which was agreeable to Mr. Bourassa, and said portion reads as follows:—

"Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the Legislative Assembly of the Province and in the proceedings of the courts, and both these languages shall be used in the records and journals of such Assembly, and all laws made by the Legislature shall be printed in both languages."

Seven Nationalists, including Mr. Monk, who was subsequently a member of the Borden government, voted for the motion, while it was voted down by all the Liberals and a considerable number of Conservatives.

If the motion had been adopted its terms would have applied to both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Sir Wilfrid's Position Clearly Set Forth.

Speaking on the above motion of Messrs. Monk and Bourassa in the House of Commons on June 30th, 1905, (for the motion was discussed for some time before the vote was taken on July 5th, 1905,) Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Hansard, pages 8571-2) in criticising Mr' Monk's remarks said: