

impairing the constitutional power of the people or infringing upon the autonomy of the province of Manitoba. I say it can be done, by compensation. All the Dominion Government will have to do would be to make a grant in order to supplement the moneys lost to the minority through the contribution which they have to make to the municipalities. For the thirty-five schools referred to, I am satisfied that \$10,000 a year would be the extent of the grant; but I go further than that, I say that the bargain made in 1870 under the Manitoba Act with the people of that western country was not a bargain made exclusively with the Roman Catholic minority; it was made with the whole population of the Selkirk settlement; and were a grant to be given to assist any particular class of schools irrespective of provincial authority, in order that they may impart that distinctive instruction which they desire, it is nothing but just that the same assistance should be granted in like proportion to the rest of the people of the Selkirk settlement, or rather to the schools that existed in that particular district. That would be just and right, and nothing more. However, that is not dealing with the question of the rights of the minority. It is the minority which has the right to complain. It has been decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that the majority has no right to complain because being in the majority, they can reverse the state of things if they see fit to do so; but inasmuch as they propose to legislate in a certain way in accordance with the ideas of the great mass of the people, they ought not to be ruled out altogether, but Parliament is now called upon to deal with the minority. Have the majority no claims? Have the majority no grievance? As already stated, the amount that would be necessary in order to rectify the present position of affairs, in order to make this wrong a right, would not exceed, so far as the Roman Catholic minority are concerned, \$10,000 a year. Now, I do not ask the people of eastern Canada to put their hands in their pockets and take out a sum sufficient to meet the requirements which have arisen in connection with this dispute, but I say that in the revenue derived from the public lands of Manitoba there is a source from which the necessary compensation can be drawn. I have always contended that the public lands of that great western country are held in trust by the Government of Canada for the

benefit of the inhabitants of that section, and to assist in its development. Up to the present moment these lands have been held and appropriated for the purpose of encouraging the extension of railways, but the time has now come, I think, when it is desirable that we should take a different course, and, instead of dissipating and alienating this great heritage, we ought to carefully nurse it for the benefit of the people who occupy that country in the future. It is out of this source, I think, that a small compensation could easily be provided, in order to put an end to what might otherwise become a very grave dispute as between different sections of the Dominion which are governed more by their feelings than by anything else in regard to religious matters. A small sum of money like that which I have mentioned, is nothing in comparison with the harm and wrong that would be done upon the people of Canada by bringing on a dispute of this kind, or by depriving that western country of the constitutional powers and privileges to which they are entitled. Now I have said as much, perhaps, on the present occasion as is necessary, but it is my desire to put myself clearly on record while this subject is before the Parliament of Canada, and in some small degree at least to give expression to what I believe to be the feelings of the people of that western country upon this subject. I apologize for imposing myself upon this House at so great a length, but there are several great questions before us to which I should like to advert.

Hon. Mr. CLEWOW—What about the school lands?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The school lands, I may say, are held by the Dominion in trust for the province of Manitoba. They really belong to the province of Manitoba, and the Dominion Lands Act clearly states that the revenues derived from them shall be paid over to the government of Manitoba for educational purposes. Any other disposition of them, in order to overcome the difficulty which I have dealt with would, I think, be an infringement upon the rights of the province, and would be looked on as such by the people of the province. In the next clause of the address, in reply to the speech from the Throne, the trade question is dealt with. It says:

We are glad to hear from Your Excellency that the depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has