

AUTONOMY, PROVINCIAL, IN THE NORTH-
WEST—*Con.**Scott, Walter* (West Assiniboia)—*Con.*

ed in regard to everything except the matter of education—3622. Was there any prohibition resting upon Mr. Haultain against bringing the matter of education into the conference?—3623. That clause would not have fixed ecclesiastical separate schools certainly and irrevocably on the new provinces—3624. Mr. Haultain asked for a provincial charter in which separate schools would be imposed and guaranteed—3625. It is to the knowledge of everybody that that declaration had absolutely no other motive than partisanship—3626. Mr. Haultain made this autonomy matter an issue in the Northwest Territories in the last general election—3627. Haultain's own draft Bill asked for the continuation of the separate school question—3628. No Roman Catholic or Protestant ever came to me privately or ever put the question at a public meeting—3629. The province must by legislation provide for public schools and permit minorities to have separate schools 3630. This is the minority right which is enjoyed in the Northwest Territories at the present moment—3631. Provincial rights with substance is a principle worth fighting for, and the Liberal party have always fought for that principle when it was challenged—3632. That the minority, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, in any district have a right to set up a school of their own—3633. It is certainly a separate school, though it is not a religious school—3634. The educational power was one we did enjoy, and so he made no mention of it—3635. I met Mr. Haultain himself twice, once at Medicine Hat and again at Moosejaw, and he never asked me any question about it—3636. Haultain, as a Conservative deavoured to start the flame even then with the idea that it would injure the Liberal candidates—3637. Sproule will find we are giving the provinces full autonomy in respect to text books—3638. I consider the proposition before the House is better for these provinces than any other suggestion that has been made—3639. It embodies a charter secure and safe against the possibility of a later invasion of the political autonomy—3640. I have here an expression of opinion of a member of the Northwest legislature, a gentleman who voted for Mr. Haultain's draft Bill—3641. The Reform party has always been specifically a party in which divergence of opinion has existed, and is not only permitted, but expected—3642. I have a large number of friends in Moosejaw, and I have heard from numbers of them since—3643. Quotes opinions from various newspapers—3644-5. Ninety-nine people out of a hundred would prefer to have these schools continued in the same way as they have been—3646. I am satisfied with the propositions contained in the Bills—3647. I voice the sentiment of the Northwest people that these measures are based upon those principles of justice and equality—3648. Has Mr. Sam. Hughes ever

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heard from any quarter of the Northwest a protest against the existing school system there?—3782.

Sifton, Hon. Clifford (Brandon)—3092.

The educational clauses of this Bill had not been before me prior to its introduction to the House—3092. For three years I have given the most careful attention to important provisions which would come within the purview of the Bill—3093. I see no reason why these provinces should not extend to the northern boundary of the mainland of Canada—3094. If you hand over the land to three separate provincial governments it would be impossible that satisfactory results could be achieved—3095. Impossible to give those lands to the provinces with a limitation that they should carry on a homestead policy—3096. The amount should be fixed arbitrarily, it should not be fixed by a reference to the number of millions of acres of land—3097. The terms of the educational clause were the cause of my resigning from the government—3098. I do not want to know what kind of schools they are going to have in the Northwest Territories—3099. What was conceived by the people of the Northwest Territories connected with these schools, to be the effect of the legislation in 1892—3100. Quotes Mr. Forget's and other opinions—3101. When the ordinance of 1892 was passed the distinctive character of these schools as separate schools disappeared—3102. We have in the Northwest Territories at the present time this system of public schools—3103. I conceived it to be my duty to protest against it, and to carry my protest to the extent of laying down the seals of office—3104. It would preserve everything that is set out in chapters 29, 30 and 31 of the ordinances—3105. A proportionate amount of money to the number of separate schools would have to be set aside for a separate school institution—3106. I think one of the things that is important in legislation of this kind is that it shall be such that the people can understand it—3107. Whether it is a separate school or a public school, it is a secular school from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.—3108. I want to ask him if he thinks Oliver would be likely to get into such a trap as that—3109. There cannot be, under this system, any control of the school by any clerical or sectarian body—3110. I myself and others took strong ground against the principle of separation in education—3111. As I understand Laurier, he has always been an advocate in principle of separate schools—3112. We pointed to the proposition we had made to the commissioners of Sir Charles Tupper, and we said that was the best we could do—3113. The principle was that wherever there was a certain number of Catholic children there should be a Catholic teacher—3114. We have a right if we so desire and the legal power to modify in detail the terms of section 93 of the