

Hon. Sir, MACKENZIE BOWELL—What I am surprised at is that the hon. gentleman, holding the views he professes, assisted in killing the proposition which we made.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, I did not, but I have always recognized in my political life the doctrine of expediency. When you cannot get all you want, do the best you can.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I do not know a better representative of expediency than my hon. friend.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is the constitution of Alberta, in which they recognize separate schools. If you attempt to put in the word 'public' schools it would be taken as certifying that it is the opinion of this Chamber that the moneys arising from the sale of the school lands shall be divided among the public schools of the country. That is what my hon. friend would like. The next stage would be to challenge the separate schools.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Are not the separate schools of Ontario and Quebec public schools?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No. At the time the constitution was given first to the Northwest Territories, we followed the description as we understood it in those days, and it was passed by the parliament of Canada without a dissenting voice. I should regret therefore that the House would accept the proposition of the hon. gentleman to make it that those lands should be sold and used only for public school purposes.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—When my hon. friend from Calgary raised his point last night, I must confess I was slightly shocked, as I thought there was some difficulty, that some dangerous issue was raised, and that possibly there was some premeditated purpose in eliminating the word 'public' from this clause. In looking more closely at the clause, and at the constitution of Alberta, I see that the clause in the Bill is perfectly consistent with the constitutions of the two western provinces commonly known as the Autonomy Bill. Let

me make this clear if I can, for I have looked into it too hurriedly to be sure that I will be consecutive in my argument. Under section 13 of the Alberta Act, it is provided that nothing in the British North America Act shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to separate schools which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this Act under the terms of the ordinances of the Northwest Territories, or with respect to religious instruction in any public or separate school as provided for in the said ordinances. It would appear to be perfectly clear that that section referred to public and separate schools; but in the distribution of the money what do we find?

In the appropriation of the legislature or distribution by the government of the province of any moneys for the support of schools organized and carried on, etc.

The word 'public' or 'separate' is not mentioned, but the general term schools is used, so that going back to the corner stone, to the constitution of Alberta, you have the word 'schools' which you find repeated in clause 42 of this Bill. The clause reads:

42. All moneys from time to time realized from the sale of school lands shall be invested in securities of Canada to form a school fund, and the interest arising therefrom, after deducting the cost of management, shall be paid annually to the government of the province within which such lands are situate, towards the support of schools organized and carried on in accordance with the law of such province; and the moneys so paid shall be distributed for that purpose by the said government in such manner as it deems expedient.

So the terms for the distribution of money in clause 42 to which exception is taken, are precisely the same as in the constitution of the two provinces. So that if you choose to raise a difficulty over this matter, you cannot succeed, because you fall back on the constitution and find the exact words, and in framing that constitution the term public schools was purposely omitted in order that the question of separate schools might be kept in the background, and if it was done for that purpose, it was done for a meritorious one. It is unfortunate that we in Ontario have fought so long over the question of public and separate schools. A separate school is a public school in a certain sense, not in the sense that a Catholic school is a public school in Alberta; but