

dered under the constitution. In that they have not shown exactly what course they may yet pursue in regard to this matter. When you wish to direct the mind of the government in any given direction—when you wish to bring to the minds of the government any grievance that you may feel in regard to any proposed legislation, the time to do it is in the early stages of the session, before the government is committed to any particular line of policy, in order that their minds may be directed by any strength of argument we may be able to bring to bear to induce them to proceed in any given direction, and it is for that reason that I propose to take up perhaps a little more time in the discussion of important questions in the debate on the address than is usually given. I wish to present, from the standpoint of the people of Manitoba, how far they feel the effect of the ruling of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, followed up by the remedial order of the Dominion Government.

The people of Canada understand what led to the foundation of the legislation that is now being put in force for the first time in this country, when we formed our confederation in 1867, it was by an agreement between the various provinces in the east agreeing to form a national union—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, agreed with one another to form the federation which has now grown into the Dominion of Canada extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The province of Ontario and the province of Quebec had certain legislation in regard to separate schools passed by themselves when they had the individual power to adopt or reject such legislation, when they formed the confederation of Canada, it was felt that that legislation which had been put on the statute-book of those provinces should be protected by legislation in some manner, and with that idea, section 93 of the British North America Act with its subsection was put in the constitution for the protection of the minority existing in Quebec or Ontario. I refer to this case because it has been quoted that the case of Manitoba is similar to that of Ontario and Quebec.

The case of New Brunswick was not similar, nor was the case of Nova Scotia or of Prince Edward Island similar to that of Ontario and Quebec. No more is that of the province of Manitoba. We have to

deal with the Manitoba case on its merits. Now, what are the conditions attached to the question in regard to Manitoba. In 1869 the imperial government desired to transfer to the authority of Canada that vast territory then under imperial control between the bounds of Ontario and the Rocky Mountains. It was, at that time, an unoccupied territory under the control of the Hudson Bay Company. There was a small population which had grown up in the country in connection with the employment offered by the fur trading companies which had planted themselves there. That small population was centred around what is now the city of Winnipeg and in the Selkirk settlement, numbering altogether twelve thousand people equally divided between the Roman Catholic faith and the Protestant faith. When the country was about to be transferred from the Imperial to the Canadian control, the flag of rebellion was raised in order that the attention of the people of Canada might be called to the fact that a portion of the population of the Red River settlement desired to be guarantee in certain rights before the transfer of the country actually took place. The result of that trouble, in the winter of 1869-70, was an intimation from the Imperial Government to inquire into the rights, and a notification from the Canadian Government that they wished the transfer which was to have been carried into effect on the 1st December, 1869, postponed until the country would be peaceably handed over by the Hudson Bay Company. The result of that was that through Sir Donald A. Smith, the commissioner of the Canadian Government, delegates were invited and came down representing the people of what was then known as the Selkirk settlement, in order to confer with the government of Canada as to what the terms should be upon which they entered the confederacy—as to how far their rights would be protected after they had joined the confederacy. What I contend is that the communication that went on between those delegated and the government of Canada was confined to the population of Selkirk settlement. It was not a conference for the purpose of directing the destinies of that great western country which extends from the bounds of the province of Ontario to the bounds of British Columbia, it was not conceived by those 12,000 people there who nominated the