

tion occupies, and I am compelled to do that because the position of myself and my friends, the position of the great party to which I have the honour to belong, has been greatly misrepresented in reference to this matter. I find, in a speech delivered by the hon. the First Minister in the county of Wright a few days ago, the following statement :—

He denied that under the Remedial Bill the minority would have secured their rights, and challenged any Conservative to prove that they would have got as much as under the present settlement.

I will ask the House to pardon me while I draw its attention to what I regard as the historical position of this question so far as regards the efforts made by the late Government and by the present Government. I shall first draw attention to what the Remedial Bill provided as submitted to the House by myself as a member of the Government of Sir Mackenzie Bowell :

The Remedial Bill proposed to constitute a separate school board of education for the province, to be composed of a number of persons, not exceeding nine, all Roman Catholics. This board was to have control of the separate schools, and among other things, to select the books, maps and globes, to appoint a Roman Catholic speaking both French and English as superintendent of separate schools.

My hon. friend will admit that no such provisions are to be found in the measure to which he has referred as giving more than the Remedial Bill gave. Section 4, subsection C, after amendment in committee reads as follows :—

To select all the books, maps and globes to be used in the schools under its control ; provided, however, that no book, map or globe other than books in history, morals or religion, shall be selected unless such books, map or globe has been authorized for use either in high or public schools of the province of Manitoba, or is now or hereafter shall be in use in any of the public or separate schools of any province of the Dominion, or books published in any country.

I ask my hon. friend if he can find in the measure to which he has referred any provision giving that security to the religious convictions of the minority in Manitoba. The history of this clause is as follows, so far as it provides for bi-lingual teaching. Mr. McCarthy proposed the following amendment :—

That in districts where any large number of the pupils attending separate schools do not understand English, but speak French, or a foreign tongue, the books and maps shall, as far as practicable, be bi-lingual in the English or French or foreign language spoken by the pupils, with the object of teaching the English language in the most effective way.

The clause carried as above was deemed to embrace the scope of Mr. McCarthy's amendment, and when read Mr. Choquette said : "I think that is fair." Clause 4, subsection C, was Mr. Powell's amendment up

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

to the last six words. Mr. Langelier proposed these words : "Or books published in any country." "The object of this I may say," he added, "is to give full power to the board to select any books they think proper." This proposal was accepted. Provision was made by this Bill so that on a petition of at least five heads of families in municipalities representing at least ten Roman Catholic children of school age, a school district could be established. Provision was made also for the establishment of school districts in cities and towns or where there was no municipal organization. The Remedial Bill made further provision for the assessment of Roman Catholic rate-payers and their property who did not prefer the provincial system and exempted the persons and property from taxation for provincial schools of those who contributed to the support of separate schools. The hon. Premier, concerning this measure, said before the last general elections :

God help my poor fellow-countrymen and co-religionists of Manitoba, if all the help they are going to have is what the hon. gentleman and his followers are prepared to give them. I pity my poor fellow-countrymen of Manitoba or anywhere else, if they expect any justice from the hon. gentleman.

And again :

What is before the House? A half-hearted and faint measure.

A measure of compromise, and nothing else.

During the consideration of this measure by the House of Commons, the commissioners appointed by the Dominion Government conferred with the Government of Manitoba. Speaking at the Club National Banquet at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, in December, 1896, the hon. Premier pretended to state the position of the settlement by way of comparison. Referring to the proposal of Sir Mackenzie Bowell's Government, he said :

Here is the proposition made by the commissioners of the Dominion Government : "In towns and villages where there are 25 Catholic children in a school, and in cities where there are 50, the school commissioners will be obliged to furnish a separate school or a separate apartment and a Catholic teacher."

The actual terms of the commissioners were very different. They suggested that the Manitoba legislature should provide in towns and villages where there were resident twenty-five Roman Catholic children of school age and in cities where there were fifty of such children for the establishment of a school house or school room where they should be taught by a Roman Catholic teacher. Where the majority of the school children were Catholics the requirements for religious exercises should not operate. That the text-books in Catholic schools should not offend the religious views of the Catholics. That Catholics should have representation on the Advisory Board of the