

ment of the Privy Council in England was rendered, the legislature of the province of Ontario passed a new law, re-enacting the former legislation, giving the Government power to appoint a new commission if the present School Board did not obey the law. That is the effect of the Act. At the same time, a second Act was passed by which all indebtedness incurred by the Government Commission would be imposed on the appellants themselves, not on those who were defending their case before the Privy Council.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: On the ground that the expenditure was illegal?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Yes. They wanted to indemnify those who had been condemned by the Privy Council to pay the costs of the case which had been sent to London. This in face of the judgment of the Privy Council, and in face of the fact that it was interfering with the rights of the minority. I will answer that second objection in a moment. We have asked the Dominion Government to disallow that Act. That is the question which is now before this honourable House, and my inquiry of the Government is, as you may read in the order paper: "Is it the intention of the Government to disallow the legislation?" We have a right to ask that whether it is interference with the rights of the majority or not. By the British North America Act the British Government has the right to interfere with and to disallow a provincial law.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: I admit that, but I want to point out this fact, that while that is the question which is being asked, the history of the whole agitation is being set out on the records of this House, and then the honourable gentleman avails himself of the right to debate the whole question and to import into it what, in my judgment, it is not for this House to deal with.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: I agree with the honourable gentleman, and I think it is the only way to come to an understanding. The honourable gentleman says: "Oh, if you keep quiet, if you bow to those who"—he did not say persecute—"if you bow to those who are not of the same opinion, if you accept what they say and do, peace will be maintained in this country." I know that; but when you interfere with what we think are our rights, with what we claim as our rights, well, leave us at least the liberty to complain; leave us at least the liberty to ask the Government, in view

of the judgment of the Privy Council, to interfere. The Privy Council has declared that that legislation is ultra vires, but you are coming back with it. It is you who are agitating the public mind on questions which have been decided and settled by the highest tribunal of the Empire. I think it is the duty of the Government in these cases to interfere and disallow the Act. If the Government does not want to disallow it, in the face of the threats which to-day menace the existence of our minority in school matters in the city of Ottawa, well, the Government will take the responsibility of its refusal. But we will go on agitating, and trying to get justice, and in those efforts I hope we shall meet with the good-will of our friends, and shall one day come to an understanding. That is what we want; we want to come to an understanding. If you say, honourable gentlemen, that your desire is not to choke the French language in the province of Ontario, give us a chance to speak it.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: It has never been interfered with.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: No, except that the teachers in our schools and our trustees are condemned to imprisonment or to pay a fine.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: If they obey the law, they are all right.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: If that is the law, we are asking you to amend it, if your intention is not to prevent the teaching of French in our schools.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: It does not.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Why will you not be as generous to our people as we are to yours in the province of Quebec?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: We are.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: We think you are not. Why do we not come to an understanding? I do not want to defy the English-speaking population in the province of Ontario; I want that we should live together in peace and harmony. My honourable friend said that I was urgent in my claims, that I was sticking to my guns. I will stick to my guns and do all I can to have justice done to my people; and I am addressing myself to your generosity. Surely cannot you do something for us? If your intention is that we should have something to do with our language, in our province, give us your assistance.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: I venture to say that my honourable friend actually refuses to give credit to the Government of Ontario of having passed the regulation for the ex-