

that he had devoted much time and attention to the enactment of the school law, which he declared, was the most perfect school Bill in the universe. Now, I should like to ask my hon. friend in all sincerity if they had in the Northwest a Bill framed and placed on the statute-book which was the most perfect and best in the world, why should any clause of the Autonomy Bill be enacted which interfered with that perfect legislation? Why not be content with that legislation? We were quite willing, so far as the opposition were concerned, to leave things precisely as they were. Then my hon. friend would have had his perfect legislation without any interference. He may say there is no interference.

Hon. Mr. WATSON.—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman who seconded this motion gave us a glowing account of what is called a separate school in that country. If I have any recollection of the declarations made by those who framed the Bill, they denied emphatically that they were giving any separate schools. If we turn to the speech delivered by the Premier at that grand demonstration in Toronto the other day—magnificent no doubt it was, and a credit to the people of that city—what did he say when dealing with this question of the Autonomy Bill. He evidently was labouring under a good deal of depression. No one can read that speech without coming to the conclusion that he felt he was talking to an audience adverse to the principles contained in that Bill, and he made this bold declaration that he gave to the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta only the provisions that are contained in the Constitutional Act.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Who said hear, hear?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I did.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—We all say it.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I am very surprised that he acquiesces in that statement. When the motion was made in the House of Commons by the leader of the opposition confining the educational clause exclusively to the terms of the Confederation Act, my hon. friend the Premier, and the hon. Secretary of State himself, I have no doubt would have, had he been there,

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voted it down. If he turns to the speech made by the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, he will find that he made this bold statement, that the reason they framed the clause in the Autonomy Bill affecting education as they did, was because he did not believe that the provisions of the Confederation Act gave the people of the west that which the government intended to give them, and did give them under the Autonomy Bill. There are their own utterances, and their votes giving emphatic denial to the statement made by the Premier. The answer of the Minister of Justice was equally strong on that point. They made the provision for fear the Confederation Act did not make the concession which they desired to give to those people, and yet my hon. friend opposite declares that all they did was to leave to them the provisions in reference to schools that are contained in the Confederation Act. My hon. friend said that the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan are quite content, and that the vote declaring they are content was an emphatic one. I know that the vote in some sections was emphatic. It is very easy to elect members and give large majorities of a very emphatic character, when you take the ballot box into a section of the country outside of the electoral division, never open the polls, and return the box full of ballots marked for the government candidate by the returning officer himself. I commend the simplicity of that plan in the west, in comparison with the trouble taken in the section of the country that I live in. There they sent to the United States and had bogus ballot boxes constructed, and with these attempted to defraud the electors. It is much easier to take the ordinary ballot box to a quiet place and fill it with bogus ballots. I have no doubt that kind of voting was done in more places than one, and thus the elections were won. But let us see how far the statement of the hon. gentleman is correct. I have no doubt he has read the letter that was written by the Premier of Saskatchewan, to Mr. McInnes, the editor of a paper published in Regina. Some portions of it are interesting. I shall read a paragraph in which he gives the reasons why the people of the west should consent to these provisions of the law which a majority of the people were decidedly opposed