

HANDS OFF MANITOBA SCHOOLS.

The Opposition Leader Uses Plain Language in Regard to Sbarette Proposition—Mr. Foster Condemns the People Who Brought Him Here and Accuses the Government of Complicity in the Negotiations.

OTTAWA, April 6.—Yesterday's debate was full of fire. Today's debate was warm but more kind. The government's proposition was due to Mr. Sbarette's statement given out to the press at an early hour this morning. On the orders of the day Borden, after making passing reference to Laurier's denial of the receipt of Rogers' letter of Feb. 23rd, which had been traced to the premier's private residence, proceeded:

Sbarette's Statement.

"Since the discussion of yesterday a statement has been made by his excellency, Monsieur Sbarette. I do not know anything of the circumstances under which the delegate was in the first place brought to this country beyond what has been stated by gentlemen on the other side of the house, who have personal knowledge of that which they state. As I gather from them, the delegate apostrophe came to this country in 1897, not at the instance of the bishops in Canada, but at the instance of some forty liberal members of parliament, members of the Roman Catholic Church. I understand that there was no demand for the appointments of a delegate so far as the bishops are concerned. I rely entirely on what has been said by honorable gentlemen on the other side, by the prime minister, by Mr. Bourassa and others, who have very frankly stated the position of affairs in this regard. The delegate came, as stated, because there was a certain misunderstanding between the laity and the clergy. I understood him to say that a difference arose in connection with the Manitoba school question. However, the delegate came in the first place on account of a political question which arose in this country. His functions have been more extensive at least political, and perhaps more political than ecclesiastical.

Now the Right Hon. Gentleman

has laid a great deal of stress upon the fact that no communication from the executive of Manitoba had come to the boundary question had come to this government before the month of January last. But my hon. friend was aware that the question had been brought up in the Manitoba legislature; that resolutions unanimously concurred in by his own political friends in Manitoba had been passed by the legislature of that province, and that when he sent his letter into the Northwest in the month of September last announcing that new provinces would be created, he knew well that the question would be to the fore as soon as the bill was introduced for the purpose of creating these provinces. Therefore the boundary question was very much to the fore during the present year.

Was Amazed.

In conclusion, the Opposition leader said: "I notice that my hon. friends opposite cheered very much the statement that 'Catholics in any territory which might be annexed to Manitoba' would naturally object to losing the right they had to separate schools, and to be subjected to the educational conditions which existed in Manitoba." That is what they cheer, as I understand. I am amazed at these hon. gentlemen. (Hear, hear.) The other day we had the ex-minister of the interior rise in his place and publicly thank the prime minister, without whose aid, he said, the Catholics of Manitoba could not have been deprived of those rights—publicly thank the right hon. gentleman for having come to the aid of the majority in Manitoba, and for having prevented the conservative government from restoring to the minority those rights of which they had been deprived. (Loud conservative cheers.)

The right hon. gentlemen have declared this to be a happy solution of a difficult situation. But hon. gentlemen opposite cheer the utterance which I have just quoted. Their attitude is a little incomprehensible to myself, and I think it must be incomprehensible to any reasonable man throughout the country. (Conservative cheers.)

His Excellency.

Now, let us observe a little what his excellency does say. He is an able and accomplished man, brought up in one of the best schools of diplomacy in the world, a diplomat, a man who would make no suggestion, I am sure to Mr. Campbell or to Mr. Rogers, which he did not feel himself able to carry out. And let us see if my hon. friends opposite will cheer at a little analysis of what his excellency does say: "I remarked that from the point of view of the Manitoba government some action on these lines would be politically expedient." Politically expedient, mark you, "and tend to facilitate the accomplishment of his object, inasmuch as Catholics in any territory which might be annexed to Manitoba would naturally object to losing the right they had to separate schools, and to be subjected to the educational conditions which existed in Manitoba."

Conditions which the right honorable gentleman himself stated in 1897 were absolutely satisfactory, not only to himself, but to the people of the province of Quebec. "Politically expedient," what does that mean? He has said, and the prime minister has said, that that interview was not arranged on behalf of the government or at the instance of the government, but I do not observe in the statement of his excellency that he did not consider himself to have authority to make the suggestion which he did make to the Hon. Mr. Campbell on that occasion. If there was a supposed authority, or if beyond that there was real authority given on behalf of this government, or given by any member of this government, how does the action of the members of this administration contrast with their attitude in 1897? Then their cry, at least in most of the provinces of Canada, was: "No coercion, hands off Manitoba." That was in answer to a remedial order and remedial legislation proposed by a conservative

administration within the strict terms of the constitution. But any such action as has been suggested might readily be regarded, I think, as a remedial order of another type—as a remedial order of an unconstitutional and unwarrantable character, and I for one am a little surprised that even upon the statement of his excellency, which I have no doubt is absolutely accurate in every respect, there should have been this suggestion to the members of the government of the provinces of Manitoba.

I am not concerned with the question as to whether or not his excellency should be recalled. As I said yesterday, he is not responsible to us in any sense. He is responsible only to his own superior.

Government Responsible.

But the government of this country are responsible to us, and if there has been any suggestion of this kind by or on behalf of the government of this country, or by or on behalf of any member of it, then I say the country will demand, and I think the people will demand, the dismissal or retirement of any member of this government who ventured to confer upon his excellency any authority of that kind. He is not responsible to us, but the members of the administration are.

This was not an ecclesiastical matter. It concerns ecclesiastical matters, it seems to me, in no way whatever. It was to all intents and purposes a purely political matter, the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba.

I venture to think that in addition to the explanations which were given by the prime minister yesterday in this regard there should be some further explanations made to the house and to the country today, in view of the very frank statement which has been made by his excellency, and which I have brought to the attention of the house. I move the adjournment of the house.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Premier Laurier in reply protested that the government of Canada had no connection whatever with the alleged threats to coerce Manitoba, had no responsibility for the individual views of the friendly liberal newspapers, from the Toronto Globe to Le Soleil, and had in all the reported Northwest negotiations no connection whatever, officially or unofficially, with the delegate apostrophe, which said with vehemence: "I am not afraid of the future and will meet the situation as it comes up, as I have done in the past thirty years."

Hon. Mr. Foster.

Mr. Foster was the next speaker, and at the outset of his remarks he analyzed and answered the statements and arguments of the prime minister. The latter claimed, said Mr. Foster, that the policy of the government respecting the boundaries of Manitoba had been stated in the speech delivered when the autonomy bills were introduced on Feb. 21. That was not correct, for in that very speech it was stated that the question respecting the extension of the boundary of Manitoba to the north and northwest was a matter for future consideration when that province, as well as Ontario and Quebec, could be heard. The question was therefore left open. Then it was said that the statement of the Manitoba delegates was correct in regard to Mr. Rogers having conferred with Mr. Sbarette, for the latter had never seen Mr. Rogers and did not know him.

But, asked Mr. Foster, was the visit of Mr. Campbell a private one? No, he was in Ottawa with his colleague as the representative of his government on an official visit. What difference did it make if Mr. Sbarette alone, or with both of the delegates, so long as the delegate apostrophe, an agent of the government of Manitoba.

Then the prime minister raised the point that the conference was private and not public. To be sure said Mr. Foster, the delegate did not advertise in the newspapers, he did not have a bell man go about the streets and announce the hour and place at which he would meet the representatives of Manitoba. How could it be otherwise than private, and yet in one sense it was public because both parties to the conference had seen fit to take the public into their confidence and told what had taken place.

Prime Minister's Statement.

But what the prime minister did not say was more significant than what he had said. It had been stated many times in different places that before the introduction of the bills on February 21, the prime minister had had numerous conferences with Mr. Sbarette respecting the measures. Those statements had yet been denied. And had it come to this, that the representative of a church (the did not care which) must be visited and consulted by the prime minister before he dared bring down to parliament legislation like that before the House? Was it proper for the head of the government of Canada to have conferences with the papal ablegate respecting legislation and give the go-by to representatives of the people—to two of his ministers, Mr. Sifton and Mr. Fielding? Why this object silence on the part of the prime minister when it was stated he had consulted the papal ablegate? Why was all this talk in the country, asked Mr. Foster? Was it because Mr. Sbarette had gone to the government of Manitoba and tried to get something for his people? Manitoba, he pointed out, was a full-grown province, able to defend itself in the exercise of the rights conferred by the highest court in the empire, but it was different with respect to the new territories, the infants of confederation, and in framing their constitution the prime minister had ignored their representative in the cabinet and consulted, so it seemed, the papal ablegate.

Would Make Same Complaint.

"If the representative of the Presbyterian church," said Mr. Foster, "of the Methodist church, of the Anglican church, or of any other church occupied a position similar to that held by Mr. Sbarette and he should be consulted on a matter like this, I should make the same complaint. There should be no semblance of union of church and state in this country. The majority of our people came from the stock that years ago fought against such union and incorporated their principles into our constitution. They were born and bred to that idea and would stand by it. The prime minister by his tortuous course, had raised a question in the country which far transcended in importance the question being debated in the house. Why was Mr. Sbarette in the country? Why was there a papal ablegate in Canada? Did spirits of evil conspire with the people of his faith to persecute his presence? No such difficulties existed and none had been alleged as an explanation of the presence of the ablegate. The very speech which was used to settle spiritual difficulties, but because there were troubles in the liberal camp. Those troubles were deep-seated and the prime minister consorted with the delegate apostrophe, Canada's high dignitary of the church to administer to certain of his followers, not spiritual but political consolation."

Recited the Facts.

Mr. Foster then recited the facts that led up to the appointment of the first papal ablegate, Mr. Merry del Val in 1894, and in this connection he read a letter signed by the prime minister and written in Oct. 1897, to the papal secretary of state asking that the ablegate be sent to Canada, and he also read the well known letter of Charles Russell, solicitor of London, Eng., and agent of the Canadian government, written in November, 1897, to the same papal secretary in regard to the settlement of the Manitoba school difficulty by the Laurier government, one part of the letter relating to this matter being as follows: "We do not solicit his holiness to sanction as perfect the concessions obtained, but that in his wisdom he will be pleased to regard them as the beginning of justice. With the aid of time and thanks to the patient work of persuasion by their compatriots, the Catholics of Manitoba may hope to obtain satisfaction in the future." The letter also asked that a permanent papal delegate be appointed to Canada, and Mr. Russell was paid for that work, said Mr. Foster, out of the treasury of the people of Canada.

Mr. Fitzpatrick emphatically denied that, and Mr. Foster thereupon withdrew the statement. Continuing, Mr. Foster pointed out that, and Mr. Russell said in his letter that the concessions to the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba were not final and complete, but were only the beginning of justice after the prime minister had declared in Canada that a satisfactory settlement of the question had been arrived at. Was that straightforward and correct, and was not the prime minister now paying for his tortuous course of nine years ago? In 1896 the prime minister saw the bridge of power before him, and through principles and solicitude for the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba he crossed the bridge and reached office. At that time he posed as the champion of provincial rights, and yet he told forty per cent. of the people of Canada that he would get more for the minority of Manitoba than the Tupper government had claimed. In power he had obtained all that was possible for the minority to secure. But why did he at once send an agent to Rome to state that what had been secured was but the beginning of justice, and ask the holy see to send a high dignitary to reside permanently at Ottawa that by insistence he could bring the tiresome, restless pressure in time of party stress, in time of provincial trouble, when a government has a small majority or when they are exceedingly anxious to get their rights in matters of territory, to use the influence he knows so well how to employ so that at the proper time this beginning of justice might blossom out into the perfect fulfillment of separate schools for Manitoba.

A Futile Defense.

It was idle for the prime minister to think that his futile defense would be accepted by the country. Monsieur Sbarette was here and he has done what he had been brought to do. "Does the prime minister see the horns of his dilemma?" asked Mr. Foster. "You brought Mr. Sbarette here, you have kept him here for five years or more; you kept him here for those purposes, and when he comes to the final,

crucial point, and uses his influence to disown him. If this is cowardice, then let it go by its imputation."

Had Done Worse.

But the prime minister had done worse, said Mr. Foster. He had told the house that Mr. Sbarette had promised Manitoba an extension of boundaries for the political consideration without any authorization, but suppose he had obtained the modification of the school laws as indicated, would not the prime minister have granted the extension of Manitoba's boundaries? When gentlemen opposite said that Mr. Sbarette held out political promises to the delegate from Manitoba, but that he had no right to do so, what an estimate did they place on the papal legate. Mr. Foster refused to believe that a high dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church such as Mr. Sbarette, a man of his training and parts, would by a trick endeavor to get for his co-religionists two amendments in the Manitoba school law unless he knew that if they were granted the other thing would be. Along what byways and crooked paths the prime minister was forcing himself

now as the result of his misdeeds to tread in sorrow and humiliation?

The People's Demands.

The people of Canada demanded there be no plausible alliance between church and state. The head of the Methodist church or of any other church had no more right to be consulted with respect to legislation than any layman in the land. He protested against the whole course that had been followed, and in so doing he believed that he was voicing the sentiment of a great majority of the people of Canada.

Other Speakers.

The debate was continued tonight by Maclean of East York, McDonald of Pictou, and Dr. Sproule, the latter accusing the premier and his Quebec liberal associates amid loud cheers, of having seduced an able Italian statesman to Canada under false pretenses. Canada did not blame the apostolic delegate for what he had done in interfering with the education of the youth, but it would hold the men who imported him responsible for his interference between church and state, which should be and must be separate forever. Laurier and his backers were today trying to break down British liberty by imposing church schools on the country.

Dr. Sproule continued the debate tonight until 10:35, when he was followed by Hon. William Paterson in his usual noisy speech.

The debate tonight was continued by McCarthy, Fitzpatrick and others, Bergeron exposing the sophistry of the grit French leaders, who held power by their spurious appeals to Roman Catholics in Quebec. He had beaten the cry against Ontario Protestants in Quebec, and held his seat to render justice to whom justice was due. By the votes of the Catholics of Quebec against Laurier's domination, he had come back here, but where were his opponents?

The debate was continued by Talbot of Bellechasse and Ingram of Elgin, the latter holding the floor at two o'clock this morning.

It was after two o'clock this morning when orders of the day were reached and Leighton McCarthy moved adjournment of autonomy bill debate.

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To George A. Dunlop, of the City of Fredericton in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, Trustee, and all others whom it may concern.

NOTICE is hereby given that under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and two, made between George A. Dunlop, of the City of Fredericton in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, and the undersigned Mary P. Kitchen, wife of Willard Kitchen of the City of Fredericton in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, the said Indenture of Mortgage, default having been made in the payment thereof, he sold at Public Auction in front of the City Hall in the City of Fredericton in the County of York, on Monday, the First Day of May next, at 12 o'clock noon, the lands and premises mentioned and described in the said Indenture of Mortgage as follows:—

"All that lot piece or parcel of land situated lying and being in the City of Fredericton in the County of York aforesaid, described as follows:—Beginning on the Northwest corner of Smythe Street at a point distant one hundred and sixty-five feet Southwesterly from the Southwest corner of the Extension of Charlotte Street (being the point where the Southwest side line of lot number four issued to John A. Lyons meets the side line of Smythe Street) thence Southwesterly along Smythe Street fifty-six feet, thence at right angles Northwesterly parallel with the said side line of said lot number four one hundred and sixty-six feet or to the prolongation of the Southwest side line of the lot

"known as number seven in Block B, conveyed to John McNair, thence at right angles Northwesterly and parallel with Smythe Street aforesaid fifty-six feet or until it strikes the Southwest side line of said lot number four, being four feet and six inches, and thence at right angles along the said Southwest side line of said lot number one hundred and sixty-six feet or to the place of beginning, being lot number three in Block B, on the plan of the subdivision of the property of the said Elizabeth A. Onda, dated the 25th day of March A. D. 1903.

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