

AUTONOMY, PROVINCIAL, IN THE NORTH-WEST—*Con.*

*Bole, D. W. (Winnipeg)—Con.*

monton—4786. Has been told to listen to the voice of 1896; quotes the Privy Council decision—4787. The voice of 1896 was in favour of separate schools—4788. It is the duty of parliament to interpret the B. N. A. Act—4789. The proposal of the leader of the opposition is not certain—4790. Ninety per cent of the people of the Northwest are satisfied with present conditions—4791. Quotes the Calgary 'Herald,' that moderation and tolerance have won the day—4792. Quotes the Regina 'Leader' as to the meeting there—4793. Quotes the 'Globe,' 'No agitation would be raised in the west if the present system is maintained'—4794. The risk run in taking Mr. Borden's amendment—4795. The only practical way is to separate the children for religious education—4796. If the Manitoba schools had been like those in the Territories there would have been no agitation in 1890—4797. The Bill altogether in the interests of peace, harmony and development—4798.

*Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—2915.*

I took it for granted from Laurier that he meant he was not going to speak, and that I was to go on—2915. Laurier has spoken with his usual eloquence upon the second reading of this Bill—2926. Certainly they have not made for unity in the cabinet nor among Laurier's followers—2927. The constitution which we now propose to give to the territories of the Northwest can only be altered by the imperial parliament—2928. They are entitled to the control of these lands just as much as the people of the eastern provinces of Canada are to theirs—2929. The people of the Northwest are more interested in attracting immigration to these splendid territories—2930. That question was precipitated into the political arena by Laurier and his friends then in opposition—2931. It is not in my opinion a question of separate schools, but a question of provincial rights—2932. I believe education should be left absolutely to the control of the people of the new provinces—2933. That verdict declared that even within the terms of the constitution there should be no coercion of a province in that respect—2934. Parliament on many occasions during the last thirty years has amended and modified the provisions contained in that Act—2935. Mr. Brown was not dealing with the question from the standpoint of constitutional obligation—2936. Quotes Thompson, Mills and Girouard on the constitutional aspect of the education question—2937. Quotes Davies and Clements—2938. Now, within the four corners of the B. N. A. Act he has found justification for imposing upon the people of the Northwest this restriction—2939. The intention was to include in the confederation the very territories that are now being constituted into provinces—2940. The tenth article of those resolutions contemplated the bringing into the confederation of the very territories with which we are dealing to-day—2941.

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Under these circumstances, it seems to me that no constitutional obligation, no constitutional authority, is found for the educational clauses—2942. Haultain has quoted certain words of Mr. Blake, which are very cogent in considering this question—2943. The basis established by this distribution of legislative and executive power cannot be altered—2944. We have no right or power to shatter the foundations then laid, or to revoke the compact into which we then entered—2945. Quotes David Mills and Dalton McCarthy as to the power of parliament—2946. The basis is that in and for each province the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to certain provisions—2947-8. It is of no use to attempt to dispose of high constitutional rights by any such juggling with words as that—2949. Why did he resort to what I, without desire to offend, call a misuse of words? I will answer for him—2950. It is not a question of introducing into the Dominion in this year 1905 provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan—2963. I am opposed to section 16, because it is opposed to the spirit and the letter of the constitution—2964. What portion of the rock of the constitution is omitted from section 2?—2965. If Laurier is sincere let him strike out these words 'in so far as varied by this Act'—2966. We are amending the B. N. A. Act of 1867 by inserting in it certain ordinances of the Northwest Territories—2967. Parliament undertakes to interpret some provisions and to amend others of a constitution—2968. The proper course is simply to provide that the general provisions of the B. N. A. Act shall apply—2969. He takes an entirely opposite stand to-day and insists on restrictions not to be found in the B. N. A. Act—2970. In the very speech Laurier delivered on the first reading of this Bill he uttered his own condemnation—2971. Any question as to the boundaries of the Northwest Territories would sink into insignificance in comparison with that question—2972. I refer to the argument with regard to the tax exemption of the C. P. R.—2973. I would like to ask whether the provisions of that amended section were submitted to Haultain—2974. No restrictions on provincial powers were contemplated in the Northwest. None are contemplated in the Quebec resolutions—2975. I venture to say that there is no reason why we should suspect the honesty, good faith and fair-play of these people—2976. Education was assigned to the provinces. Let any necessary agitation be confined to provincial limits—2977. I do not argue against separate schools. I do not argue for separate schools. It is not for me to determine that question—2978. Moves his amendment. The effect of this amendment is not to defeat the Bill—2979. I never expressed any opinion on the subject—2982. Could Fielding state what were the pledges he referred to?—2996. We could not make a much worse mess