

"Provided always, that the governor-in-council may, by proclamation published in the Canada Gazette, at any time when it appears to the public advantage to do so, detach any portion of the said district therefrom and re-annex it to that part of the Northwest Territories of Canada not included in the said district; and the portion so detached shall then be subject to the same government and laws as that part of the Northwest Territories of Canada in which it is re-annexed."

The Public Advantage!

Now, Mr. Speaker, you will observe that at any time when it appears to be to the public advantage of Canada, a portion of the Keewatin territory, not it all mark you, could be detached from Keewatin and attached to the Northwest Territories. But, Mr. Speaker, even this had to be done when such an act could appear to be in the public interest. Now, sir, what position does this leave Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his minister of justice in? It leaves them in this position, that they themselves, by their own statement on the floor of parliament, by their own act passed on July 20, declared that it was not in the public interest that this territory should become attached to that portion of the Northwest Territories which was then being disposed of. And yet, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding this declaration in the Canada Gazette, they took advantage of an unfair interpretation of this clause to rob Manitoba of this great territory. And for what purpose, Mr. Speaker? No doubt for the purpose which is named in the latter part of the clause in which it says that the portion so detached shall then be subject to the same government and laws as that part of the Northwest Territories of Canada to which it is reannexed.

What It Means

Now what does this mean, Mr. Speaker, in so far as our position is concerned? I cannot do better, perhaps, than quote to this house the interpretation, meaning, and effect as laid down by Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself. When discussing the autonomy bills on May 9, he took the position that—

"No; there is no need of a legislature, because there is no population. Keewatin has been administered for thirty years by the province of Manitoba."

And further:—

"I take the position that the constitution makes it imperative for us to respect separate schools wherever they exist."

Double School Law

What does this mean, Mr. Speaker? It clearly means that whatever extension of our boundaries we may get, if we

ever get any according to the principle as laid down by Sir Wilfrid Laurier we must, and under no other terms can it be possible for us to secure an extension of our boundaries without first accepting the principle of separate schools in that territory. Therefore our position will be simply this in so far as apparently as it is possible for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to make it, that should we even now get an extension, it would be necessary to have a double school law, one for the territory so added and the law as it exists at the present time in this province. All this quibbling of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's can carry with it no other interpretation. The difficulties which he anticipates with respect to the objections as offered by Dr. Cash for that district north of this province, as well as his desire to have Ontario lay claim to a portion of this Keewatin territory, carries with it the same meaning. We denied last year, and we deny now, the right of Ontario to have anything whatever to say in regard to this matter, for the simple reason that when we had our dispute with Ontario in 1883-4 in respect to the eastern boundary, and when the matter was carried to the judicial committee of the privy council and finally settled, and in which as you all know we were unfortunate enough to lose that very valuable territory lying east between the present boundary and Thunder bay, yet, sir, the public records go to show that at that time with Sir Oliver Mowatt as leader of the government of Ontario a request was made to the secretary of state for the Dominion of Canada to have the northern boundary of the province of Ontario where it stands to-day, finally fixed then and forever. The Dominion government accepted this request as made by the government of the province of Ontario, confirmed the request and forwarded the same to the house of commons of Canada for their confirmation. Therefore by their own act and their own request the northern boundaries of the province of Ontario have been fixed for all time, and Ontario has no standing to make any request. It is true that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, if he wishes, for reasons of his own, and for reasons no doubt which I have described, desires to give them the territory north of their present boundary, he can give it. As I have stated, Mr. Speaker, already, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has full and complete power in his own hands and the hands of the government to alter this boundary just when he likes, and to what extent he wishes.

Little Reason to Hope

But, Mr. Speaker, according to Sir