

Mr. McCARTHY. And I think it would require a good deal of ingenuity for any person who has listened to the hon. gentleman's speech—and I confess to have read it—to derive from it any such conclusion as the hon. gentleman states to have been his meaning. However, I accept his meaning. He now withdraws his statement, and says there were not two compacts.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not. My hon. friend has shown his utter incapacity by that very statement to argue fairly and rightly.

Mr. McCARTHY. The hon. gentleman has not withdrawn the statement that there were two compacts?

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. McCARTHY. I put it any way the hon. gentleman pleases.

Mr. FOSTER. I dare say—

Mr. McCARTHY. Now, surely I have allowed the hon. gentleman to make a speech, and he should not talk while I am talking. The hon. gentleman says there were two compacts.

Mr. FOSTER. Certainly.

Mr. McCARTHY. He said the first had nothing to do with the second except as infusing a spirit into the second. Is that right?

Mr. FOSTER. Not quite. It is as near as you can get it.

Mr. McCARTHY. Well, we will try to keep as near to it as the hon. gentleman was. Now, Sir, as a matter of law, at all events, the hon. gentleman has admitted that the first compact had nothing to do with it. Then, if the first compact, as a matter of law—and we are living under a federal constitution—had nothing to do with it, why all that story? Why all that tissue of misrepresentation, either designed or uttered in ignorance?

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman will allow me—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. McCARTHY. I said either designed or uttered in ignorance.

Mr. FOSTER. You said a tissue of misrepresentations.

Mr. McCARTHY. So it is. It is a complete tissue of misrepresentations.

Mr. FOSTER. I object to that remark. The ignorant part I do not care about; but to the other part I do object.

Mr. McCARTHY. Very well. Take your choice about it. I am not going to say it was not ignorance. I will accept the hon. gentleman's statement. But, Sir, if it was through ignorance, it is rather too much for us to be told that we must vote for a Remedial Bill based on statements which are

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founded in ignorance, and which really are a tissue of misrepresentations.

Mr. FOSTER. It is your own assertion that it was founded in ignorance.

Mr. McCARTHY. Well, I cannot please the hon. gentleman. Whether I blow hot or blow cold, it does not matter, he is not satisfied. So I will not attempt to satisfy him. I will go on with the discussion.

Mr. FOSTER. That is right.

Mr. McCARTHY. Well, now we come to the Manitoba compact. That was a compact also, it seems. What value does the hon. gentleman attach, what meaning does he attach to the word compact, may I ask? Does it make the word mean more or less? Are you to read the Manitoba Act differently from what these words express in plain and simple language? They are not difficult of interpretation, because we are told it is a compact. What is a compact? Sir, I have to congratulate the House on one thing in this debate—that no man, even the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) himself, has had the hardihood to get up and contend that there was a fourth bill of rights in this discussion. That was threshed out here last July, and the only thing that we gained by the discussion in the dog days was that that fourth bill of rights has not been heard of this session. Then, where was the compact? That a certain portion of the people of the Red River were in rebellion, that we sent delegates to these rebels, that they sent, on our invitation, delegates down here, that we had a conference with these delegates, and that the result of that conference was the Manitoba Act, no person disputes. But what we always have disputed, what we have the right to dispute, and our contention is now practically admitted, is that there was no claim or demand on the part of the people of the Red River settlement for separate schools, and that if we found a clause recognizing separate schools in the constitution, it was not put there at the instance of the settlers or the people of the Red River, but was inserted here at the instigation of some influences with which we are not, perhaps, altogether unacquainted, as designing and fixing the legislation of this Parliament. Then, I would like to know why that should be called a compact. I give it all the meaning that is attached to it. I wish to give it full and absolute meaning, the broadest signification, the most liberal interpretation. I am willing to treat it upon the broad lines which the Minister of Finance laid down as proper to guide us in a question of this kind, and I am willing and anxious that the question should be discussed in that way. What does it say? Let me summarize it, without troubling the House with reading these clauses which have been read so often, and I shall summarize it fairly. The province