

Mr. BRODEUR. Based upon a compact I was discussing then. But I said I never for one moment pretended that we are obliged to adopt this agreement, if it refers to the Territories. There is some divergence of opinion as to that. Some say that all the rights conceded in 1870 have been incorporated in the Manitoba Act. Some others pretend that these rights apply not only to Manitoba but also to all the settlements in the Northwest. But coming to what I said the other day, what I said was that there was a moral obligation, that the school question was one of the rights demanded by the settlers in 1870 and incorporated in the Bill of Rights. They demanded that they should have their own separate schools and that the public money granted for education should be distributed among the different denominations in proportion to their respective numbers as is done in the province of Quebec. My hon. friend will admit that the legislation we have submitted with regard to separate schools does not go so far as that. I was simply quoting that just as a moral obligation to a certain extent on our part, which obligation was incorporated later on in the legislation of 1875, and which is recognized by the different statutes we have to-day; and I added that what we wanted to incorporate in the legislation of to-day are the rights and privileges which the minority are now enjoying in the Northwest. I never pretended that we should enact legislation entirely upon the Bill of Rights—clause 7, No. 4—but simply that we should continue the system now existing. What I am claiming to-day with regard to the French language is the same thing.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I understand that what my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier is asking by his motion is that the present system shall be continued.

Mr. BRODEUR. No, he is not asking for that.

Mr. MONK. I beg my hon. friend's pardon. That is what I am asking for.

Mr. BRODEUR. What he is asking is to give to the new provinces the power which was given the territorial assembly in 1890, which power that assembly exercised by abolishing the French language.

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend is totally mistaken. That is not what I am asking at all. The power given in 1891 was a power granted to the assembly of the Northwest Territories. That assembly will be in a day or two non-existent, and the power will be granted anew to the legislature of the province.

Mr. BRODEUR. But let us come to questions of fact. Is the French language to-day in use or not in the legislative assembly of the Northwest?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN

Mr. MONK. Is the legislative assembly going to be continued or is it to be abolished by this Act?

Mr. BRODEUR. I am asking the hon. gentlemen this question: Is the French language to-day in use, or is it not, in the legislative assembly of the Northwest? I claim it is not; my hon. friend says it is, if I understand him aright.

Mr. MONK. Will not my hon. friend admit that we are creating a new state of things, a new province and a new assembly?

Mr. BRODEUR. What I am contending for is that we should take things as they exist to-day. What will be the result of the motion of my hon. friend? I put the question to the leader of the opposition. What will be the result of this motion? Will it not be that the legislatures of the two provinces will be obliged, at their next session, to publish their proceedings in French? To-day they are not obliged to do so. A member of the local legislature to-morrow, if this motion carries, would have the right to speak in French; to-day he has not that right.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Did the hon. gentleman ask me a question?

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. He asks me what would be the result. I think the result would be this, that the legislature of the new province would determine, probably by resolution on the very first day, or the second day, on which it met, whether or not it would publish its proceedings in French.

Mr. BRODEUR. But if this motion is not carried the position would be different.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman is right as to one aspect. But my hon. friend says he wants to continue the existing condition of things; then he would have to continue the use of the French language in the courts and in the printing of the ordinances.

Mr. BRODEUR. I will come in a moment to that question. So far as the use of the French language in the legislature is concerned, the leader of the opposition admits that if this motion carries the situation will be different to-morrow to what it is to-day, because to-day the French language is not used in the legislative assembly, the Votes and Proceedings are published simply in English. But to-morrow, or at the next sitting of the legislature, so long as it does not exercise the powers which are given to it in this resolution, then the proceedings would have to be published in English and French.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman is quite right, but I think he is overlooking one thing. The legislative assembly of the Northwest, on any day, could rescind that resolution and pass another. My hon. friend,