

form, and with the same meaning which they had in the original province. All the legislative authorities possessing jurisdiction over that territory have declared that the added territory should enjoy the same rights and privileges as the original province. How then can it be contended that they come under a different rule? It would be as reasonable to contend that the territory itself was not added. The provincial legislature extended the educational acts then in force in the original province, to the added territory and having been once applied to the added territory I do not see how those rights can now be declared not to apply to it. The hon. gentleman says that the agreement is not binding for all time to come because when the original right was granted there were only 12,000 people in the Selkirk settlement, whilst that population has since increased to about 200,000 people. If that increase of population is a reason to set aside the original agreement, it is also a reason to set aside that agreement for the older part of the province where the population has also increased.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—What I said was that the rights of the minority were confined to the Selkirk settlement, but the right is only a right to appeal—that when that appeal comes before Parliament there is a constitutional right on the part of Parliament to change their policy in any direction that they see fit.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—This Parliament has no right to change the constitution of Manitoba; only the Imperial Parliament can do that. The hon. gentleman said substantially that an agreement made by some 12,000 people could not be binding for all time to come on a population largely increased coming into the province afterwards. The answer to that is that it is binding until it is cancelled in a regular and constitutional way. It is like a man who has given his note and is bound by his signature. Afterwards his heirs are bound by the note until they are legally released. There is, in legal parlance, an expression which is used to describe an unpaid note; we say that the note has been dishonoured. In this case until the constitution is changed the agreement stands, and what Manitoba has been doing for the past five years, is to put herself in the position of a man who allows his note to

be dishonoured. It was with sentiments of national pride that I heard the other day the hon. leader of the government declare that the signature of our sovereign should not be dishonoured. As a matter of fact that agreement was made with the whole population of Canada. It was made by the 12,000 people that were there on the one part, and the Dominion at large on the other part, and the witness to that agreement was Her Majesty herself, for it was sealed with the great seal of the empire.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—And what was that agreement?

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—The agreement was that the rights and privileges of the minority should always be respected, which has not been done during the past five years.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—In what district?

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—In all the province.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—What was the size of the province?

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—I cannot give the number of square miles, but it does not appear to me that the size of the province has much to do with the rights of the people.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—There is an Act of 1884 extending the limits of Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—I presume the hon. gentlemen from Shell River refers to that extension of the boundaries of the province. By an Act of Parliament the institutions of the province of Manitoba have been extended to the whole of that province including the added territory and afterward the provincial legislature itself extended all its legislation in all its various purports, including the educational acts then in force, to the added territory. The inhabitants of the added territory thus were endowed with all the privileges and rights in every shape and form and in all their bearings which were enjoyed by the remainder of the province. That is declared by the Parliament of Canada and by the province itself, yet, some 20 years afterwards there are some who say that the minority in the newer portion of the province do not enjoy the privileges that were conferred upon the original province. We have legislation which expressly extends to the added territory the constitution and the laws of