

receive in our schools, and the books which shall be put into their hands for their guidance, and at the same time for the conservation of the good principles that they have received at home, but the church. It is the doctrine of our church, and that doctrine we are forced to defend, not only with all our strength and all our will, but we are obliged to defend it at all hazards, so that in Manitoba to-day we have our Catholic schools, though they are run at our own expense. We do not receive any money from the Government for them, and should the judgment of the Supreme Court be in our favour it would be certainly nothing but what is our right. Naturally, we will accept the judgment of the court, whether it is rendered for or against us; at the same time, while expressing the views of the Roman Catholic people on the question of separate schools, and how important it is for us, not only to defend them, but to keep them under all circumstances, it is only necessary to refer to the affidavit which has been recently issued by His Lordship Archbishop Taché. I will invite the hon. members of this House to look at this declaration and see how he is strengthened in the right of the church to control the affairs of our Catholic schools. I think I could put before this honourable House no better testimony than that of such a deserving man as His Lordship Archbishop Taché. He has been in our North-West nearly half a century, and everyone will admit that he has very great influence there, an influence which has always been employed in serving the interests of the Dominion. He has employed that influence to pave the way for civilization from the American frontier to the Arctic Sea by the establishment of churches, colleges and convents, in the charge of priests, brothers and sisters, who impart gratuitous instruction and at the same time spread the blessings of religion, virtue and civilization, teaching whites and Indians the loyalty they owe to the Dominion and to British institutions. That is the work that this deserving bishop has been doing during the half century that he has passed in that country. These considerations should have been sufficient to prevent the trouble that has come upon his people, a trouble hitherto unknown in the North-West. Those who first settled in Manitoba will see how the different classes of the population have intermingled; we cannot

see the dividing line now as easily as we could twenty years ago, when I was there for the first time. You could there see from Pembina, on the American frontier, the French population living on both banks of the Red River. From Fort Garry to Lake Winnipeg the population were principally English and Protestant. The same division could be seen on the Assiniboine River, but instead of one dividing line they alternated. At St. James the population was French; at Headingly it was English and Protestant; at White Horse Plains it was Catholic and Protestant, and further on it was English and French. It is now a tradition that these divisions were in existence by the consent of the bishops at the time. I have no proof in my hands, but I put before the House the fact that there was toleration, not only in the schools and churches, but amongst the people of the North-West at that time. I think the hon. member from Kildonan will agree with me that we were then good friends in all the business and social relations of life. The half-breeds of that time, and the people of Kildonan, Scotch and Protestant, traded and amused themselves together, and their intercourse was such that the people of Kildonan spoke the French language with the same facility they could their own. My hon. friend learned that language in the country at the time, and the French inhabitants could speak English, if not as well as my hon. friend, at all events sufficiently to understand one another. They were separated, nevertheless, in religion and in their schools; but in all other affairs of life their intercourse was of such a nature that we lived on friendly terms together until that goodfellowship was disturbed by the large number of strangers that have settled amongst us. With the old people, however, it is always a pleasure to remember the good old days that have passed away. I shall not detain the House any longer, but shall merely ask for the papers, to show the House the false position that has been assumed by the Government towards the Catholic people of the North-West. We favour British institutions; we are loyal to our Queen and to Canada, and we want to do all in our power to assist in the progress and prosperity of the Dominion. At the same time, if it is in the power of Parliament to do so, let the chains which bind us be broken; let us retain our rights and