

that province, that I recorded my vote as I then did, and I trust the day will never arrive when the party with which I am connected will violate any agreement into which they have entered. The minority who did not obtain their wishes at that particular time should not forget that this country has to be governed by the majority, and in the interests of the whole, and not in the interests of the few. I might enlarge on this question, but I do not think it at all necessary to do so. The government took the strictly constitutional course in reference to the Manitoba School Act. I am a very strong believer, as Mr. Blake is, in provincial rights, and it was for that reason that I was obliged in 1888 to record my vote (nearly getting defeated by my constituents, subsequently for doing so) in support of the contention of the province of Quebec in regard to the Jesuits Estates Act. I believe that the province of Quebec had a perfect constitutional right to pass that Act, and that they acted within their powers. They were disposing of their own moneys, and I took the view that it was none of my business in what manner they chose to do so. Consequently I refused to support the motion seeking to condemn the government for not disallowing the legislation of the province in that regard; and I hold that the same principle must be applied to the whole of the legislation and administration of the country. Under the very principles embodied in this resolution of Mr. Blake's, the Manitoba school case was referred to the Supreme Court of Canada. That court decided that the School Act of the province was *ultra vires*. The hon. the leader of the Opposition says that everybody knew that, or that if they did not know it they did not understand the matter. Notwithstanding his statement, there was a considerable diversity of opinion on the point, and when the case came before the Lords of the Privy Council in England they decided that the School Act was *intra vires*, that the legislature of Manitoba had a perfect right to legislate as they had done. Then arose the question of the right of the minority to appeal to the Privy Council of Canada for remedial legislation. That again went to the courts in Canada, and our Supreme Court decided that the minority had no right of appeal. Then the matter was on appeal laid before the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council, who declared that while the Act which had

been passed by the legislature of Manitoba in 1890 was within the powers of that legislature, the people of Manitoba belonging to the Roman Catholic faith having no rights either by law or practice in respect of separate schools at the time of the admission of Manitoba into the confederacy in 1870, the Act of 1890 had infringed upon the special privileges conceded to the minority by the provincial legislature in 1871, and that, therefore, the minority had a constitutional right of appeal to the Privy Council of Canada. The government lost not a day in summoning the parties interested on either side to appear before the committee of the Privy Council of Canada, there to argue the question in its various aspects pro and con. It was not a week afterwards that the remedial order was issued, asking the legislature of Manitoba to restore to the minority, those rights and privileges of which they had been deprived, as indicated by the decision of the Law Lords of the Privy Council. I do not know that the hon. the leader of the Opposition stated it, but it has been stated here, and throughout the country—it was stated in the debate on the address in the other House by the leader of the Opposition—that that remedial order meant nothing. Then, in the very next breath we are told, that the government has issued a dictatorial order to the province of Manitoba. The opinions of those who are in opposition to the government on this question are as diversified as the colours of the chameleon.

Hon. Mr. POWER—As diversified as the opinions of those who are supporting the government.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—My remark applies particularly to those who belong to the party led by the hon. gentleman opposite. In Antigonish, we were condemned for not going far enough; we were assailed at Verchères on the ground that we had done nothing to relieve the minority; on the other hand, we have it on the authority of a gentleman immediately associated with the Liberal party, speaking in the constituency of Haldimand, that the remedial order was issued for the purpose of buying the votes of the members from Quebec. No matter where you turn, no matter what section of the country you enter, the same divergence of opinion may be observed. All