

would be under the absolute control of the various provinces. From this I come to the conclusion that they may either use those funds or lands for school purposes or any other purpose. Although I did not have time to examine this question, I am under the impression that by virtue of the Dominion Lands Act, chapter 113 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, there was a certain protection granted to the minority. In certain cases that minority might be a religious one, or it might be any other. In a letter written to me my attention has been called to the fact that recommendations were made by the McFarlane Commission regarding grants to private and parochial schools in Manitoba, and to the fact that those recommendations of the McFarlane Commission have not been adopted. I respectfully submit that this is a very delicate question. Because of the late stage at which the matter was introduced in the other place the debate was shortened to a strict minimum, and I understand that the bill was adopted in the absence, in particular, of the member for St. Boniface, who was anxious to be heard.

A few minutes ago we discussed the centennial celebration of Confederation. I am 100 per cent behind celebrating it, but it would be too bad were an injustice committed at this time, and were there not some kind of protection afforded to ensure that funds which are distinctly for educational purposes continue to be used for such purposes. Like the honourable senator from Banff (Hon. Mr. Cameron), I believe that the greatest thing in the world is culture, and culture must be promoted upon the basis of justice. If we cause grievances among minorities, whether they be Catholic or any other—because we are not the only ones who wish to have denominational schools—by committing such an injustice, then those celebrations will be completely spoiled.

Honourable senators, at this time I am not in a position to suggest any amendment, but I appeal to your spirit of fair play. I say that school funds should continue to be used for school purposes, and that all minorities should be treated in a fair and equitable manner. That a proportion of those funds should go to public schools is perfectly normal, but I say that other schools, either of a religious or simply private character, should not be deprived of what I would call a fair proportion of those funds.

I believe that the proper place to obtain information concerning the aspects of the problem, which I have only been able to outline in a few words before this honourable house, is the committee to which the bill should be referred. However, later I wish to

make it clear that I do not approve of the principle of the bill, and that I reserve my right to vote against it in committee and in this house on third reading.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time on division.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Pearson, bill referred to Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT BILL

FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-131, to encourage fitness and amateur sport.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine tabled:

Agreements between the Governments of Canada and of the provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, dated July 13, July 13 and July 14, 1961, respectively, concerning the administration and control of natural resources in those provinces, and vesting them with full power to administer and dispose of the school lands and the school lands funds referred to therein. (English text).

The Canada Gazette, Part II, Statutory Orders and Regulations, 1961, Wednesday, September 13, 1961, pursuant to section 7 of the Regulations Act, chapter 235, R.S. 1952. (English and French texts).

Capital budget of the Cornwall International Bridge Company Limited, for the period October 1, 1961, to September 30, 1962, together with Order in Council P.C. 1961-1313, dated September 14, 1961, approving same, pursuant to section 80 of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, R.S. 1952. (English text).

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

OPERATIONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Hon. Calvert C. Pratt inquired of the Government, pursuant to notice:

Is it the intention of the Industrial Development Bank to open a regional office in the province of Newfoundland,