

Educational History

This was generally resented by all parties except the Roman Catholics. Hon. Clifford Sifton, who had been the champion of public schools in Manitoba, was Minister of the Interior at the time, but was absent from the country when the Bill was framed and introduced. It appears that he was not consulted in the matter of the final framing of the school clauses, and as he could not agree with the proposed legislation, he resigned office. The commotion became widespread, and the Government bowed so far to the rising storm as to modify the proposed legislation into a shape which they and their supporters claim to mean simply the perpetuation in the new provinces of the educational system in vogue in the Territories under the Dominion Act of 1875, and accepted generally by the ordinances passed by the Local Assembly. Hon. Mr. Sifton said he would support the modified clauses, "though without much enthusiasm and with considerable reluctance." He claimed that under the amended clauses the schools would be public schools in every sense except that the principle of separate buildings was adopted. Rather than defeat the Government and precipitate an unhealthy agitation in the country, he would support the amended Bill, though he asserted his belief that the matter should have been left to the new provinces.

Hon. F. W. G. Haultain, Premier of the