

time was consumed. Then came the Newfoundland delegates to discuss terms of union. I am not surprised that the meeting of Parliament has been delayed beyond the usual time; I am only surprised that the government are so well prepared in so short a time to meet the representatives of the people. Now, with regard to the Manitoba school bill, my hon. friend from Ottawa said that the government should have taken a different step, that they ought, in the first instance, to have decided and done what they considered right to the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba. I do not know that there is any man more inclined to stand up for provincial rights than the leader of the opposition. He has always taken that position and had the government taken any other position than they did under Sir John Thompson, leaving the rights of the Catholic minority to be determined by the courts in accordance with the resolution passed in the Commons when this question first appeared to be looming in the horizon in 1890, they would have merited censure. Had the government attempted to interfere in the matter, or had they even given advice, they would have acted unwisely and imprudently and would have had the censure of the country upon them; but they took the proper steps and took them in time. The courts of Manitoba decided that the local government acted within their rights, and we find the Supreme Court divided on the question. The majority I think determined that the legislation was *ultra vires*. The case went to England, and was sent back again for the purpose of being extended. It was rather too narrow in the first instance, and it was then determined that the rights which they had acquired since confederation had been taken from them and that the government here should see that they got redress. I think the government had no right to deal with the question until such time as the courts had finally and fully determined upon the matter. Might not the Roman Catholic schools have suffered under the provincial rights cry, had the government taken action before the legal and constitutional rights of the Catholics had been fully, finally and completely determined by the highest court of the Empire? The Premier has said, that if Manitoba fails to do her duty in this matter, the Dominion Government will not shrink from their duties. They are prepared to do

what is right under the constitution. Now, my hon. friend from Marquette seemed to think that the action of the government should be confined, if anything was done, to some portion of the territory which was called the Selkirk settlement. Well, supposing a township or town, as a corporation, should extend its boundaries, do you think that the added territory would not come within all the privileges and immunities which the others had before them? By the Act of 1884, they were guaranteed all the rights that belonged to them. My hon. friend says that many of these Manitoba schools have come in under the national school system of the country. Will my hon. friend say that they came in of their own choice? Certainly not. He would not attempt to say so, because we know that the Roman Catholic Church calls for the education of their conscience. Religious training is an element in their schools. They consider that children are not properly fitted for the duties of this world, or of another, unless religious education is combined with secular instruction, and if any part of the Roman Catholic population of Manitoba has gone in under the national school system, it must be because they had no alternative. It was because they had to do it, by compulsion and, having done so, it is no argument for my hon. friend to say that so many have gone in that the rest are a small minority. Why, what is this parliament here for but to give protection to minorities? The very formation of the Senate is to protect the minorities of the different provinces.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—To protect the minor provinces.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—Yes, and every part thereof, and the minority thereof, in all their constitutional rights and privileges. Even before we confederated, when the question first came up in 1863, it was at the instance of the Protestant minority of Quebec that this legislation was first adopted, to protect the Protestant minority of Quebec. The minority, I believe, in Ontario at the time had their rights recognized and it was for the protection of the minority chiefly in Quebec that this clause in the Confederation Act was introduced, because if you refer to Galt, to Letellier, to McGee, and other men in the Parliament of old Canada in 1863—I read