

made, to that extent the Dominion Parliament could justly be asked to assist financially in order to place them in no worse position than they would have been had the action of the Manitoba Legislature not deprived them of the financial benefit of separate schools. To that extent I think justice should go, but the very fact that that compact was entered into in 1870, between the delegates from Manitoba and the general Government—the fact that they went back, and the bargain made at that time referred only to that small tract of country which confined the existing settlement of 1870, shows that there was no intention and no desire on the part of the delegates or on the part of the general Government to make any compact that would be binding upon the development of that great territory and upon the people who might occupy it in the future. To that extent, I think it would be wise for us to review the matter. The people of Manitoba would be as desirous of doing justice to their French Canadian fellow-countrymen and to extend to them as warm a welcome as settlers as they could desire, for that reason I think it would be most unwise for us to do anything that would impair the liberty of the people, whether it should establish a precedent that is likely to impair the rights of the provinces as they exist or of the new provinces to be created hereafter. For that reason and to that extent I sympathize with remarks made by the hon. seconder of this Address in regard to this question, but I can assure him that there is no desire or intention on the part of the people of Manitoba, from my knowledge of them, to be in the least degree illiberal or unjust to their fellow-countrymen in the matter of separate schools. There is one more reference that is made here that I should like to deal with and that is the following:—

We are also gratified to hear that in Manitoba and the North-west Territories the increase in immigration has been decidedly encouraging, both as regards the number of persons who have come from other countries and as regards the number of homestead entries made by settlers of all nationalities.

Now, it is a matter of congratulation to those that live there and to the country generally, to feel that the increase of population is progressing satisfactorily in our waste territory—that those homesteads are being taken up. I live there, and I feel that it is quite as important to keep those people

on their homesteads, after we have got them there, as it is to put forth exertion to bring them to our country. Our conditions are such that they are not all being kept there. The trade policy of the country is pressing upon them and the heavy freight rates to which we are subject in bringing our produce to market is burdensome. Our ability to produce is being checked and the country is being weighed down by those two burdens. I would read to you some verses that were put into my hand, which perhaps may be out of place here, but as they are more eloquent than any words I can give you to show the feeling that does exist among many of those who have to produce from the soil, and find a market for their produce by exporting it through the ports of Canada to the markets of world. The following is the sentiment of a settler who has been there seventeen years, and is conveyed to this honourable House as it was conveyed to me:—

Will you walk into my country, says the bright
Canadian fly,

'Tis the very finest country you ever yet did
spy,

We'll give you land for nothing, don't even ask a
rent,

But from everything you buy here we've twenty-
five per cent.

You see we've got a family and so we must be
doing,

And tho' we do our level best we cannot keep them
going,

With salaries and subsidies, interest on money
lent,

Even then it does not seem to do on twenty-five
per cent.

Our eldest boy, "a darling," we christened him
N. P.,

His constitution's undermined, or so it seems to
me;

We've fed him upon luxuries to a terrible ex-
tent,

But still it does not keep him up this twenty-five
per cent.

We swathed him up in cotton, a most tremendous
coil,

We gave him steel and iron and rubbed him with
coal oil.

He has been taking boodle drops as an emolient,
But nothing seems to keep him up, e'en twenty-
five per cent.

We let him play with implements and many other
toys,

Electric light and telephone, that pleases other
boys;

But spite of all that we can do, he does not seem
content,

He grumbles, grumbles, for still more than twenty-
five per cent.