

Mon. Mr. KAULBACH—How does my hon. friend contend that by giving the minority their rights it would deprive the majority of theirs ?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—If the majority of Parliament have the right to say "you have no more control over your educational legislation in Manitoba from this hour," I say, you would be doing a very grave injustice to the majority—you would be inflicting a wrong on them in the light of experience and in the light of the history of the world to-day. It is not for us in Canada to make a retrograde movement so far as our constitutional powers are concerned. As I said before, I am not at all criticizing the government for their action up to the present, but I wish to warn them on the part of those whom I represent here—on behalf of the 36,000 people in the constituency of Marquette, whose feeling, I think, I appreciate under the circumstances—I wish to ask the government how far it is wise for them to go in the interests of the good government of Canada, and I want to point out a remedy that might be applied without infringing upon the constitutional rights granted to the people of that western country and of the people who will occupy it in the future. Manitoba is a very great country of which Canada may well be proud of—a country that Canada can nurse not only in its commercial aspects, but its political aspects as well, in order to extend the dignity power and greatness of the Dominion. It is a country of great productive power, of good climatic conditions, and is going to assist Canada to exercise that influence and power on this continent and in the history of the British Empire, of which Canadians can well be proud. I wish to point out, without going into this matter any further than merely to give expression to these views at this early stage, a remedy which might be applied with justice to the minority, and without any injustice to the majority—that is, by the power of compensation that exists with the Dominion Government. What is the condition that we find so far as the Roman Catholic minority are concerned since the Act of 1890 was put in force ? The position is this, that in the whole province of Manitoba, extending from the western bounds to the eastern bounds there have been one hundred and one Roman Catholic schools. A certain num-

ber of those Roman Catholic schools have adopted the national system. A separate school, named after my hon. friend from St. Boniface, the Bernier school, was one of the first to come under the national system after the Act of 1890 was passed. Another, named after the Hon. Mr. Arsenault, has also come under the national system of education and has ceased to be a separate school. In the case of the Bernier school it has been a national school for four years. There are thirty-six of the one hundred and one schools that have come under the national system of education. Therefore, on the part of the population comprised in these school districts there is no grievance.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There was no alternative : they were forced.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Yes, they had an alternative.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—All their schools were suppressed and their property confiscated.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—No.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—Yes, by the law of 1894.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Not as I understand it. A large number—perhaps the largest number—of those schools that have come under the national system, are in what is called the added territory of Manitoba. The majority of those who have not come under the national system are in Provencher and the Selkirk settlement. Those who are living in the western portion of the province are satisfied with the national system of education, and very properly so. There is no grievance. In my immediate neighbourhood, there is a separate school named after the clergyman, Father de Corby, who founded it. He conducted a separate school there for years, to which the Protestant population in its neighbourhood all went. They were well satisfied with the school ; they had no complaints to make of it. They took advantage of it, because it was the nearest and best they could attend. When the legislation of 1890 was enacted, the school immediately came under the national system without any complaint or grievance, and went on identically as it did before under the supervision and guidance of the priest of