Mr. MONK. I am much obliged to my hon. friend for his suggestion. I am prepared to adopt it. It is a very valuable suggestion.

Mr. BRODEUR. I was discussing the motion of my hon. friend.

Mr. MONK. Does he not think he can address himself to a higher phrase of the question ?

Mr. BRODEUR. That is what I am doing.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. My hon. friend can vote for the sub-amendment.

Mr. BRODEUR. I suppose I may discuss the motion of my hon. friend. What I find is that it is simply repeating word for word the resolution which was adopted in 1892, which gave to the legislative assembly of the Territories the right to abolish the French language, and he knows well that it did abolish that language.

Mr. MONK. I am ready to forego that part of it.

Mr. BRODEUR. Is not my hon. friend proposing the same legislation that was adopted in 1890-1.

Mr. MONK. My hon. friend puts me a question. I tell him that it is necessary to re-empower the provincial legislature to deal with the question, so far as its proceedings are concerned.

Mr. BRODEUR. Then the motion of my hon. friend is absolutely useless from a practical point of view. The records of the legislative assembly of the Territories show that in the Northwest to-day the French is not desired as an official language.

Mr. MONK. I do not know that.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am quoting to my hon. friend what happened in 1892. I suppose he knows that ?

Mr. MONK. Oh, yes.

Mr. BRODEUR. I shall read it again.

Mr. MONK. That is not necessary.

Mr. BRODEUR. On the 19th of January, 1892 it was decided by the Northwest legislature, on a division of four to twenty, that ' it is desirable that the proceedings of the legislative assembly shall be recorded and published in the English language only.' Now what is my hon. friend proposing? He is proposing that we should give again to the local legislatures of the new provinces the right to declare, as the territorial assembly has done, that the official use of the French language be abolished.

Mr. MONK. Is this parliament of the same opinion as it was in 1892 ?

Mr. BRODEUR. I am quoting what the local legislature did in 1892. How is it that the use of the French language was provided for in the Northwest Territories Act ? It has been stated that there was a compact regarding the use of the French language with the representatives of the Red River settlement in 1870. My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has suggested, and it has also been suggested by some other members of this House, that I declared there was a compact with regard to separate schools ; but these hon. gentlemen have forgotten one thing. I never asked with regard to the school question, that we should adopt, word for word, the agreement, if there be an agreement, with regard to the Northwest. I never suggested that this agreement should be accepted word for word or in its entirety.

Mr. MONK. Neither did I. I am ready to accept any suggestions.

Mr. BRODEUR. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition suggested this afternoon that we were bound by an agreement which I said had been made in 1870. What was the agreement with regard to the school question ?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If my hon. friend will allow me, what I said was this. I distinctly understood him to argue that the two Bills of Rights, to which reference was made, extended to the Northwest Territories as well as to the province of Manitoba ; and because they did so, the hon. gentleman argued there was a compact in respect of separate schools.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Does my hon. friend remember whether or not the Bill of Rights was ever discussed in any case before the court, or has ever been accepted by parliament, as conferring any right whatever. I have examined every document and book I could get, and I never found anything was ever based on the Bill of Rights either by way of legislation or decision of the court.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think it was used by Mr. Ewart in his argument before the sub-committee of the Privy Council of 1895 with regard to Manitoba.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. What I asked was whether my hon. friend knows whether anything has ever been based on that Bill of Rights?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I could not at the moment say. Of course, my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue based something on it.

Mr. BRODEUR. Not as a legal argument. I think my hon. friend will admit that. I never based anything upon it as a legal argument.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As a compact ?

Mr. BRODEUR. As a moral obligation to a certain extent.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And my hon. friend extended it to the Territories ?