

which you have prepared on behalf of your section of the Manitoba educational exhibit. I shall be pleased to receive a thousand copies of the memorandum and to see that they are carefully distributed. The exhibit which you have taken such pains to collect has already attracted considerable attention, and I do not doubt it will add to the success of the Dominion at the exhibition.

I remain yours faithfully,

CHARLES TUPPER.

I take the following extract from the *Canadian Gazette* of London, published on the 4th November, 1886 :

It is generally believed that of all the sister provinces, that of Manitoba is the least advanced towards civilization. We already know that in many respects such is not the case, but if we consider the excellent scholastic exhibition of that province, we see in what degree that impression is erroneous, especially in the matter of education.

The collection contains samples of books, exercises, scholastic material, &c., coming from the Catholic schools as well as from the Protestant schools of the province.

The excellence of the work, and especially of the geographical charts, is incontestible. This is the more pleasing, if we consider the fact that many exhibits are dated from the year 1884, and the beginning of the year 1885. It is evident the exhibit is composed of the ordinary duties of the schools in all parts of the province, and not of work specially prepared for the occasion.

No pretension has been made to eclipse the school exhibits of the other provinces, but the collection that is under our eyes denotes that in one of the most recently organized provinces of the confederation, there exists a school system which, although respecting the faith and religious convictions of the population, offers to every one an education capable of fitting for the highest rank in society, the child who is placed under its care.

This refers more especially to the Roman Catholic schools. That is evident from the fact that some of the sentences in that passage are almost word for word taken from the memorandum which I had prepared to accompany the exhibits of the Roman Catholic schools to London. Now let us see whether we could not arrive at the same conclusion by the results of common examination. There was no such common examination in the primary schools, but there were and there are still common examinations in higher branches at the University of Manitoba. I may say that we have a university the institution of which is unique in the Dominion, I believe. It is a federation of colleges, including institutions of all denominations. We have four examinations, the preliminary, the previous, the Junior B. A. and the Senior. In the Junior B. A. and the Senior B. A. the students generally branch off, some graduating in mathematics, some in

natural science, some in classics, some in mental and in moral philosophy, but at the preliminary and previous examinations the students of all the colleges come into contact and pass a common examination. The papers are corrected by professors of the various colleges. At those examinations the students of the Catholic college of St. Boniface have always had their full share of honours, prizes and scholarships, and sometimes more than their proportionate share. The argument that I draw from this is that in education every thing is connected and the last result is generally an indication of what the beginnings were. The students of the St. Boniface college begin their studies and make their preparations in our primary schools, and, if these schools did not do proper work, those students would not be able in after years to post themselves sufficiently in the higher subjects to compete with the students of the other colleges. The fact that they do compete and take their full share of awards is a test of our primary schools, and one that is in our favour. Of course, the remarks are not in answer to the hon. gentleman, because he did not touch that subject. Now as to the other contention of the hon. gentleman—that the agreement of 1870 could not be binding on the present population, I wish to say a few words. To begin with, is there not some inconsistency in the contention of the hon. gentleman? He says first that there is a part of the province which is entitled to a remedy; he admits thereby that the agreement holds good for a part of the province, but in the next breath he argues that the agreement could not have the effect of binding the population for all time to come. Surely there is a contradiction in these two propositions. Let me take first his contention that the agreement entered into by the province of Manitoba must apply only within the limits of the original province. That is a proposition which bears its own refutation. By legislation on the part of both of the federal parliament and of the provincial legislature, the same rights and privileges which the population of Manitoba, irrespective of creed or origin, had then have been extended to the added territory. That legislation could not in fact impose on that new portion any other rights or privileges. Those rights were extended in the same proportion, to the same extent, in the same shape and