

Lord WATSON.—Each denomination had a state-aided school, in which a particular religion was taught.

Mr. HALDANE.—Yes. I do not know that it matters, but I prefer to put it in a different way.

Lord WATSON.—I do not object to your putting it in another way.

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—Can you tell me, as a matter of fact, when the Manitoba legislature came into existence? The Manitoba Act is the 12th May, 1870, but I suppose they would have to have a Lieutenant Governor appointed, and to have an assembly elected.

Mr. HALDANE.—I cannot tell your Lordship from information, but your Lordship notices the Act of 1871, and therefore I think I am right in saying 1871.

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—They existed, I know, because they existed in time to pass the Act by June, 1871. What I wanted to know was how early in their existence that Act came upon the carpet.

Lord SHAND.—Which Act is that, the Act of 1870?

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—The Act of 1871.

Mr. HALDANE.—That I cannot say, my Lord. I do not know whether my friend can inform your Lordships.

Mr. BLAKE.—The 15th of July, 1870, as my friend informs me, is the period at which the union came into force, but neither of us are aware when the legislature was first convened.

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—Of course that must have taken some time.

Mr. BLAKE.—Yes.

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—Because, of course, you had to elect the legislature?

Mr. BLAKE.—Certainly. I am not aware whether there was one elected in the fall of that year or not.

Mr. HALDANE.—There was the Imperial Act in June, 1871.

Mr. BLAKE.—My learned friend tells me that this was the first session; the session in which this Act was passed was the first session of the legislature. That is what my friend tells me.

Lord SHAND.—This Act of 33 Victoria, cap. 3, which is in the copy I have before me, was assented to on the 12th May, 1870.

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—Yes, but I want to know when the legislature came into being.

Mr. BLAKE.—All that we know is that this Act in question was passed in the first session of that legislature. My learned friend so tells me.

Mr. HALDANE.—The existence of the province as a province was not finally set at rest until the 29th of June, 1871, which was the date when the Imperial Act forming Manitoba received the royal assent.

The Lord CHANCELLOR.—But there was no doubt a legislature elected before.

Mr. HALDANE.—No doubt there was a legislature elected before. It must have been so.

Lord SHAND.—Was not the establishment of a system of denominational education a privilege of the minority?

Mr. HALDANE.—No, my Lord. It was given to the community as a whole.

Lord SHAND.—No doubt, but still they got that notwithstanding, whatever might be the vote of the majority.

Mr. HALDANE.—What the legislature did was this, they said "it is in the interests of the whole that the community as a whole should have denominational education."

Lord SHAND.—If you assume a very small minority of one class it is a great privilege to them to have that.

Mr. HALDANE.—Even though it has certain rights and privileges, which I say—

Lord SHAND.—But for that privilege they would have been out voted. The schools might have been made all Protestant, for example, if the minority was Catholic.

Mr. HALDANE.—That is possible.

Lord MACNAGHTEN.—Supposing it was a privilege conferred on all, but one of the large sects did not consider it a privilege, is not it a privilege to the minority?