

bill could be proved to be a forgery. In the first bill (December, 1869) is the following :

"That a portion of the public lands be appropriated to the benefit of schools, the building of bridges, roads and public buildings."

In the second bill (February, 1870) is the following :

"That while the Northwest remains a territory the sum of \$25,000 a year be appropriated for schools, roads, bridges. That all the properties, rights and privileges, as hitherto enjoyed by us, be respected, and that the recognition and management of local customs, usages and privileges be under the control of the local legislature."

In the third bill (March, 1870) is the following :

"That all properties, rights and privileges enjoyed by the people of this province, up to the date of our entering into the Confederation, be respected; and that the arrangement and confirmation of all customs, usages and privileges be left exclusively to the local legislature."

In the fourth bill (March, 1870), is the following :

"That all properties, rights and privileges enjoyed by us up to this day be respected; and that the recognition, and settlement of customs, usages and privileges be left exclusively to the decision of the local legislature.

"That the schools be separate, and that the public money for schools be distributed among the different religious denominations in proportion to their respective population according to the system of the Province of Quebec."

To any unprejudiced mind all these bills of rights imply the continuation of schools upon the denominational system. The fourth one no doubt is the only one which prescribes the particular kind of denominational system which the settlers desire ("the system of the Province of Quebec"); but the first two bills, asking that land and money be appropriated for the support of schools, clearly imply that the schools are to be denominational; for no one would have thought of demanding that if *public* schools were established they were to be sustained by public grants. Bills two and three also demand that all rights theretofore enjoyed should be respected. Any one at all familiar with the great importance attached by Canadians to their various views of educational matters, would not doubt that the rights which the settlers had enjoyed with reference to their schools were intended to be included in this demand.

It is contended, on the one hand, that the Red River delegates, who went to Ottawa to arrange terms of incorporation with Canada took with them bill No. 3, and, on the other, that they took bill No. 4. For the reason already given the solution of this question seems to be quite immaterial, but if other reasons be required they may easily be given: Whatever bill was taken it is clear that