

AUTONOMY, PROVINCIAL, IN THE NORTH-WEST—*Con.*

*Fielding, Hon. W. S. (Minister of Finance)*—2979.

I do not understand the procedure under which Borden has proposed this amendment—2979-80. I believe that the people of Canada, since this unpleasant question is brought before us, will expect us to meet it plainly and openly—2981. We know that there are strong reasons why these lands should be retained within the control of the Dominion—2982. It is necessary that there shall be a retention of these lands in the hands of the Dominion government—2983. Quotes Sir John Macdonald on the Manitoba land question—2984. So far the principles under which these subsidies and aids to provinces may be granted are pretty well understood—2985. I do not think that on the whole we can complain much of the financial terms—2986. I would like to see a school law which did not call for this word 'separate'—2987. There are three great lines of thought to-day on the question of public education—2988. I think that we can agree that their view of the matter—that is as to the need of religious instruction in the school—is entitled to our respect—2989. Laurier has not declared that it is within the power of this parliament to make a change—2990. The parliament of Canada passed that clause and put it upon the statute-book by a unanimous vote—2991. I find that in this House, as I have stated, there was no objection, the Bill passed without any division—2992. Scott must have contemplated that the clause was intended to continue in force for ever in the Northwest Territories—2993. I am speaking entirely with a view to establishing the intention that existed in the minds of the men who passed the legislation—the government—2994. Quotes Dalton McCarthy and Sir John Thompson—2995-6. Aside from the constitutional question, surely we have to admit that there is the practical question—2997. There is no protest from the government of the Northwest Territories against this measure. I make the statement advisedly—2998. A system of separate schools may mean one thing in one quarter and another thing in another quarter—2999. That system prevails to-day in the Northwest Territories, and that system we propose to continue by this legislation—3000. That authority for religious instruction is not confined to separate schools; it applies to all schools in the Territories—3001. I think the great mass of the Protestant people of Canada will say that they regret that there has been any agitation on the subject—3002. While we have no separate schools established by law, we have in practise in all these provinces separate schools—3003. We have to-day before us perhaps the most important measures that have ever engaged the attention of the parliament of Canada—3004. Borden warned us that he spoke to-day for himself only, and that he did not presume to speak in the name of his party—3005. I say this is becoming a religious question;

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who denies it?—3006. I am not discussing their motive or purpose, but the line of separation is religion, and no one can contest that—3007. This modified Bill we submit to the House with the conviction that we offer a measure which high-minded and patriotic men may accept—3008. I know of no method whereby the word 'must' can be applied to the action of any member of this parliament—3015. I did not attribute any remark of any kind to Borden in that relation—3066.

I have not had the advantage of hearing this whole discussion, but I may say that I have never used such a statement—3484. There are numerous speeches to follow—3833. It will be necessary for us to work a little harder and a little later—3836. Let us hope so—3919. Objects to adjourning; should work harder and sit later—3921.

If Catholics do not want separate schools they will not ask for them, and so will not get them—4637.

Question does not exist in the Northwest—5305. Voters in Edmonton are British subjects and Canadians—5306. If Manitoba lists are stuffed, why do they not stop it?—5307.

*Fisher, Hon. Sydney (Minister of Agriculture)*—4481.

Establishment of separate schools guaranteed at the time of the union—4481. The provisions of the Manitoba Act were not sufficiently explicit—4482. Believes in the history of the new provinces. No agitation will arise on the question of education—4483. Our principle is to so rule the country that the minority may be contented, happy—4484. The minority must be always carefully considered and carefully reckoned with—4485. The kind of fairy story Sproule retailed to the House—4486. The Protestant schools in Quebec are not schools in which God is not mentioned—4487. The Catholic schools and the Protstant schools of Quebec both teach religion—4488. The advantages afforded the minority by the fathers and framers of confederation—4489. All the taxation levied for school purposes on any Protestant goes to Protestant education—4490. The 'Gleaner's' particular statement had truth enough in it to make it worse than a plain lie—4491. The law puts Catholics and Protestants on exactly the same footing—4492. The Protestants have the entire management and control of their normal schools—4493. The privileges granted to us to-day are not given by virtue of any law or guarantee—4494. We believe it important to us that this state of things should be continued—4495. Better for the future of the country if this sort of tolerance animated the opposition to-day—4496. Conservative party have no principles upon this Bill or upon anything—4497. He voices the feeling of the Protestants of Quebec—4498. Quotes Montreal 'Gazette,' that Conservative party is not united—4499. Quotes Mont-