

upon the fact that Mr. Sifton is a determined enemy of separate schools, that he framed those clauses in a form satisfactory to himself, and that for this reason nothing need be apprehended by the people of the new provinces as to their effect.

The position taken by myself and a majority of the Conservative members was this:—

We realized that the British North America Act contained a basis of federation earnestly considered, carefully determined and not lightly to be altered. We believed further that the distribution of legislative powers between the Dominion and the various provinces could not be altered by any act of the Canadian Parliament. That distribution had been agreed upon by the representatives of the Province of Quebec and the other provinces which constituted this Dominion in the first instance, and had been embodied in an act of the Imperial Parliament. It is impossible to conceive that the Dominion Parliament has power to admit or establish new provinces to whom federal powers shall be given, or from whom provincial powers shall be abstracted. We therefore believed it the right and constitutional course to declare in the constitution of the two new provinces that such provisions of the British North America Act, not only those contained in sections 91 and 92 but those contained in section 93 as well, should be applicable so far as they could be applicable to the new provinces.

There was much debate in Parliament as to what the result would be. Lawyers on the Government side whose eminence has since been recognized—such as Mr. D. D. MacKenzie, who has since been appointed a judge of the County Court; Mr. J. H. Lamont, who has been selected by Sir Wilfrid Laurier as Attorney General for the Province of Saskatchewan—these lawyers argued that my proposal would give to the minority in the two new provinces greater powers and greater rights than those which were proposed by the Government. To this I returned the answer that if such were the result the minority would be receiving only that to which they were justly entitled under the constitution. I further declared that if it were proposed to amend the British North America Act by prohibiting separate schools in the new provinces, it would be as strongly opposed to it as I was to the proposal of the Government. Such subjects are for the provincial legislatures.

In my native province the rights of the minority have been