

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

Belcourt, Hon. N. A. (Ottawa)—Con.

vince' in section 93 means the province not before, but the province at the moment it enters confederation—3500. The Act of Confederation determined the relations of these autonomous provinces as between themselves and the central powers—3501. The Canadian parliament cannot materially alter the specifications of the B. N. A. Act—3502. It covered the case of Manitoba in so many words, but by necessary inference it covered the case of the Territories as well—3503. The Territories are concerned; it must be remembered that they came into the confederation without any special provisions—3504. The Act of 1871 has not in any way modified or altered the specific provisions of the Act of 1867—3505. The jurisdiction is in this parliament, and it will remain here until these new provinces come in—3506. We have now the right and power to repeal or modify the provisions of the law of 1875 as to education—3507. We have a right to make such legislation as we deem proper for the Territories in reference to education—3508. Borden has told us that the provisions of the B. N. A. Act apply automatically or mechanically—3509. I would like to ask if it was intended by the general provisions of section 93 to protect the rights of the minority—3510. We are dealing with the interpretation of the spirit and letter of a constitution made nearly forty years ago—3511. It has become absolutely necessary to have section 16 enacted and made a part of this Act—3512. Would Borden rise in his place in this House and suggest that we should repeal the provisions of the Act of 1875?—3513. I still hold the opinion that section 16 constitutes a modification of the law of 1875—3514. We are not dealing with the question of provincial rights now, but with the question of religious instruction in the schools—3515. I did not know, but I would assume that he was not in favour of religious instruction in the schools—3516. He said that politically it did not pay, and for this reason he was not going to do it again—3517. Quotes Foster on his self-sacrifice in 1896-1904—3518. Surely that is not a point of order; I would like to know what the point of order is—3519. I made a statement, I gave the proof, and I leave it to the House to judge—3520. I have nothing to withdraw—3520. I have accepted the statement Borden has made—3521. We have made an agreement; we have decided what is to be done with reference to those new provinces—3522. This House has been flooded with petitions against the so-called tyranny involved in this legislation—3523. Quotes Bishop Briand in 1775—3524. That he is the one who has gone into the by-ways and the back townships to get them signed and sent here—3525. They were his special business, and he gave it all the attention and zeal he could—3526. The agitation has been carried on almost exclusively by the Conservatives of this province—3527. They succeeded in

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getting Borden, who, up to that point, was very undecided, to adopt their views and take the course he did—3528. I thought it was only natural that he would consult his followers and the constituency he represents—3529. When the vote is taken on this question there will be given for the Bill the largest majority that was ever given in this parliament—3530. Is it not the lesson that in this country government is possible only by tolerance, by conciliation?—3531. With such conduct only can we develop ourselves into the nation we ought to be in the time to come—3532.

Bennett, W. H. (East Simcoe)—5262.

Is there to be rivetted upon that country for all time a system of separate schools?—5262. Challenges the naming of one Liberal paper not opposed to the Bill—5263. Laurier has played fast and loose with this question—5264. Brodeur sits in the cabinet a geographical and national freak—5265. Mulock does not desire to be a lawyer but a statesman—5266. They were a panic stricken crew when Sifton turned up—5267. If he approves the Bill why is he not still minister?—5268. Cites Sir John Thompson—5269. And Hon. David Mills—5270. Shades of past statesmen would sigh over these degenerate days—5271. Majorities have no rights, must yield to the minority—5272. Roman Catholics know how to conduct their schools—5273. I care not for what the member for East Grey says—5274. We have no separate high schools—5275. The school system will be a reproach if the Bill passes—5276.

Bergeron, J. G. H. (Beauharnois)—3462.

Demers endeavoured to make political party capital out of the question which is now being debated in parliament—3462-3. The French-Canadians are conquering some counties in Ontario without having recourse to the B. N. A. Act—3464. This is to become in time, when the population shall have reached 800,000 souls, \$2,207,875 for each province, or \$4,415,750 for the two—3465. That narrow spirit which would set the letter of the law above its intention—3466. There is the law of 1875, now I contend that this law has never been repealed—3467. Everybody was supposed to know that there were separate schools in the Northwest—3468. It was merely an act of justice to give them the schools they wanted—3469. By degrees have taken away nearly everything that was granted to the minority under the Acts of 1875—3470. It was called a separate school, but we found it was a public school—3471. Why was there not an appeal, or why were not those amendments vetoed by the government at Ottawa?—3472. Quotes Archbishop Taché on the Manitoba case—3473. There is no question that a demand was made not to put in