

of the Empire decided against the Dominion Government and in favour of the provincial government controlling those rights, we do not know how the agitation would have ended, or what disastrous results would have flowed from it. Then we had a struggle as regards the claims of a province to own minerals and timber. This again involved the question of provincial rights, and ended in a decision against the Dominion, and the province was secured in the rights which it enjoys to-day, and which the people thought they were entitled to enjoy at that time. That contention also raised a great deal of agitation. This agitation which went on, intensified and accentuated the feeling that the provinces should know what rights belonged to them, and be accorded those rights without any interference. Then we had a question of provincial rights somewhat similar to the very important question which is now under discussion. Hon. gentlemen will remember that we passed the Canadian Pacific Railway Act, and by that Act we practically took away the right of the province to charter local railways, a right which all the provinces had enjoyed up to that time; or, in other words, we put a monopoly clause in the charter of the company, which prevented the Manitoba government from exercising what was the undoubted right of every province, to grant charters for railways within its own territory. What was the result? A very serious fight took place, a very strong agitation was carried on. It was considered a grievance which at the time was difficult to remove. And what was the result of that agitation, and what was the result of that strife? We were obliged to buy back that monopoly from the Canadian Pacific Railway at a very great cost, for the purpose of appeasing the feeling and the anxiety of Manitoba, and we were obliged to give them back the power which they thought, under the constitution, they should enjoy, and which they complained was unfairly taken from them. Until that was done we had nothing like a settlement of that question. All these things have tended to create a feeling of antagonism between the government of Manitoba and the Dominion Parliament. Then, after that, we had what was known as the Jesuits' Estates Act. That was a question dealt with in this House and discussed at very great length. Upon what ground did we, who voted with the Government upon that occasion, justify the vote which we gave. It was solely upon the ground—I speak at least for myself—that we were upholding the rights of the province of Quebec. We got our information upon that question from a source which would be regarded as sufficient authority to satisfy most members of the House. We got our advice from the late Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. We were told, that at confederation, the rights of the provinces were

laid down, and amongst these undoubted rights were: first, the control of the land within their bounds, to sell that land, to give it away, or to use it as they saw fit. We were told, that the right of the control of educational affairs rested with the provinces. We were told, that it did not matter whether it accorded with the views of the majority of the Dominion Parliament or not, the right of the province was to control its educational affairs. We were told, that, so long as the province raised money according to the ways laid down in the British North America Act, it did not matter how they spent it. It was said to us, that the provinces might grant licenses to raise money, or they might sell their lands to raise money; but, so long as they raised it according to the constitution, they could use it for any purpose they desired, no matter whether it was agreeable to outsiders or not. I remember distinctly putting a question to the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald about that. I said: Suppose that a province should pass a law to use money for a purpose which, in the judgment of the Dominion Parliament, and in the judgment and the wisdom of the people of Canada, would be detrimental to the interests of the Dominion, or to the interests of the other provinces, or even to the interests of the province itself, would the Dominion Parliament be justified in vetoing that law. And Sir John Macdonald's answer was: So long as they raised that money in the manner laid down under the constitution, it is a matter of unconcern to us, and it is none of our business, if they pitched that money into the St. Lawrence or into the fire. And he further said: They have sold a portion of what was their own land, and they have raised money; they are now using this money on educational lines, and they are entitled to do so, and, whether it is agreeable or disagreeable to us, it is the right of the province, and we must be satisfied with it. Upon that understanding, and believing the right hon. gentleman to be a greater authority than I on provincial rights, although it was against my judgment, and although it was against the judgment of my constituents, I supported the Government on that occasion. And, Sir, I remember that the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald said, in answer to the same question: It may come back to you in the province of Ontario to-morrow, and how could you be so inconsistent as to oppose the right of the province of Quebec to deal with her own land, her own money, and her own education, if, on a similar question arising in the province of Ontario, you were obliged to vote the other way? Those were the arguments then used by Sir John Macdonald, in the case of the Jesuits' Estates Act.

Now, Sir, I regard this present question as being on the same lines. Manitoba has seen fit to deal with education. It is the right of that province to deal with that matter. It is

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