

Unmanly Statements

The next statement in this newspaper is to the effect that finances of Manitoba in their actual state are not made to attract residents to the district, and that Manitoba has a debt of \$1,000,000. Now, Mr. Speaker, what more unfair, more unmanly statements, could Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his organ be guilty of as against this country than this reference to our financial position, for I want to say here and now Mr. Speaker, that as a province we stand in the proud position today of being able to show that our financial position, notwithstanding the manner in which we have been handicapped and treated, stands equal in the money markets of the world with the financial position of any other province forming part of the confederation of our Dominion. When at any time we find it necessary to place our bonds on the money markets of the world we find them being sought after by financial institutions which look into the soundness of the finances of every country, and we are able to secure as high a rate for our securities as that secured by any other province in any other part of Canada.

Separate Schools

Then these statements of Le Soleil wind up by the statement that the northwest has had separate schools, and that Manitoba has abolished them, that every good act has its reward and every bad act its chastisement, and that our little province is to remain least of all with our present law. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the condition of which we had to complain, and of which we complain today, we deny the right of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government to continue their penalizing policy, and punishing us as they are doing. It is true as quoted by Le Soleil that northwest territories had its separate schools, and it is equally true that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fitzpatrick, the minister of justice, have during the last few months by a course which reflects no credit either on their honor, or upon their standing as public men in this country, taken away from this province that great territory known as Keewatin which was annexed to Manitoba in 1876, and which we have looked after and governed from that time down until the present, and Mr. Speaker, the only reason why they adopted this course was simply for the purpose of establishing a system of separate schools in that great territory. Now, Mr. Speaker, the question is naturally asked how has this been brought about? Let me point out to you in the first place that when the Keewatin act was introduced into the

parliament of Canada, the Hon. Edward Blake, then minister of justice explained its meaning and effect to that parliament, and in so doing he used the following language:

"He pointed out as soon as the boundaries of Ontario and the Northwest territories (meaning Manitoba), was settled, the question would immediately arise whether a portion of the territory for present purposes annexed to Manitoba, would belong to that province. If not annexed to Manitoba it would be under the jurisdiction of the government at Fort Pelly (the then seat of government). If this territory is annexed to Manitoba the laws of that province relating to schools will apply to it. If re-annexed to the Northwest territories, clause 14 of the act of last session will apply."

"Again, on the third reading of the bill, the same gentleman said: 'If the territories were attached to Manitoba they would be subject to the laws of that province; if to the northwest, they would come under the eleventh clause of the act of last session.'"

"I might explain that the clause 11 referred to is the section of the Northwest Territories act empowering and authorizing the establishing of separate schools."

So that you can see from this statement, Mr. Speaker, as made by Mr. Blake that when the time should arrive for the disposition of this great Keewatin territory, or any portion thereof, that any part coming under the law of the province of Manitoba would be subject to the school law of this province, and that any part becoming annexed to the Northwest Territories would come under the school law of such territory. Now, Mr. Speaker, what happens? After the province of Saskatchewan was formed and the lines laid down, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fitzpatrick, the minister of justice, brought in a bill to provide for that very small strip of land of the Northwest Territories which was left out of the province of Saskatchewan and which lay between that province and the territory of Keewatin. Now, this bill provided that that very small portion of the northwest should become attached to the Keewatin district, and let me quote Mr. Fitzpatrick in the house of commons. He said on Wednesday, May 17:

"All the bills that stand in my name on the order paper, as well as the two bills which stand in the name of my hon. friend the minister of the interior (Mr. Oliver), and the one bill which stands in the name of my hon. friend the minister of agriculture (Mr. Fisher), are necessary legislation in view of the autonomy bills that have just been introduced. I might as well, with the permission of the house, explain all the bills at the same time."