

accord with each other, and that every law passed either by this Parliament or by the Local Legislature disregarding the rights and usages tolerated by any one of such religions is of a nature to destroy that harmony; that the Local Legislature of New Brunswick in 1871 adopted a law respecting common schools, forbidding the imparting of any religious education to pupils, and that prohibition is opposed to the sentiments of the entire population of the Dominion in general, and to the religious convictions of the Roman Catholic population in particular; that the Roman Catholics of New Brunswick cannot conscientiously send their children to schools established under such a law and are nevertheless compelled, like the remainder of the population, to pay taxes to be devoted to the maintenance of these schools; that the said law is unjust and contrary to the spirit of the Constitution, and causes much uneasiness among the Roman Catholic population disseminated throughout the whole Dominion of Canada; and that such a state of affairs, if continued, is likely to prove the cause of disastrous results to all the confederated Provinces; and praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to cause an Act to be passed amending the British North America Act, 1867, in the sense which this House believes to have been intended at the time of the passage of such Act, by providing that every religious denomination in the Province of New Brunswick shall continue to possess and enjoy all such rights, advantages and privileges with regard to their schools as such denomination possessed and enjoyed in that Province at the time of the passage of the said last-mentioned Act, to the same extent as if such rights advantages and privileges had been then duly established by law."

He entered into a history of the school question in the Province of New Brunswick since 1858, as well as of the legislation which had taken place upon it, but most of his remarks were inaudible in the gallery. He quoted the votes and proceedings of the New Brunswick Legislature, and then, referring to the vote on the subject in this House in 1872, said it was not a Catholic vote, but was made up equally of as many Protestants as Catholics. The late Government was very much embarrassed by the vote on that occasion.

Mr. PICKARD: They need not have been embarrassed, nor need they feel embarrassed now.

Mr. COSTIGAN contended that they were embarrassed, and justly so, by the position taken by the hon. member for York (Mr. Pickard) and his eleven New Brunswick Associates. Had the Act been disallowed after the vote of 1873, he contended that the position of affairs would have been far simpler than today; but, except for the refusal of the Government to carry out the wishes of the House, the position was much the same. To cover the difficulty, he now proposed an amendment to the constitution, a course which he justified by reference to the amendment to the constitution in favour of Nova Scotia. Some members took strong ground against the disallowance of local Acts, thinking it a great outrage, but it was not any greater outrage in a sense than the disallowing of Dominion Acts by the Imperial Government, as, for instance, in the case of the salary of the Governor General, which was disallowed by the Imperial authorities.

He would be prepared to let the matter await the decision of the people at the elections. If there was any reason, he hoped that it

would be fairly considered; but he was sure that every issue but this would be brought before the people for their decision. He denied any desire to embarrass the Government whatsoever. Had the former Government been in power, his course would have been the same. He felt himself bound to advocate this question, his desire being to place the minority in this Province in a proper position.

The resolution was seconded by **Mr. WRIGHT (Ottawa County)**.

Mr. DESJARDINS moved, seconded by **Mr. OUIMET**, that the discussion on this subject be postponed till Monday next.

Mr. COSTIGAN had no objections to the motion, which was carried.

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RETURNS

Hon. Mr. DORION presented the report of the Commissioners to the Vienna Exposition; also, papers in connection with the Yale-Kootenay election; also, correspondence on the subject of the salaries of judges in the different Provinces.

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SALARIES IN THE CUSTOMS

Mr. FORBES moved for a return of all the officers in the Customs department of Nova Scotia since first July last who have received an increase of salary under the provision of the Act 36 Vic., by which a certain sum was provided for the increase of the pay to the civil service outside the employees of the House.—Carried.

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TREATY OF WASHINGTON

Mr. PALMER moved for all despatches on the subject of the appointment of the Commissioners referred to in the 22nd article of the Treaty of Washington. The production of these papers would satisfy the people of Canada as to the reason for the delay in carrying out the arrangements.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked that this motion be not pressed. It was inexpedient in the public interest to have the question now discussed.

The motion was withdrawn.

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OTTAWA SHIP CANAL

Mr. WRIGHT (Pontiac) moved for the reprinting of the reports of the surveying of the line of route of the Ottawa Ship Canal made by Messrs. Shanly and Clarke, Civil Engineers.

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TELEGRAPH LINES IN NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. GOUDGE moved for a copy of the petition and all other papers upon which the Montreal Telegraph Company based their application to this House for increased powers to extend their