

poses, subject to the specific provisions in the Act of 1879 and have remained so down to the present time.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—I understood my hon. friend to say that all the schools of the Northwest were public schools.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—And I see in section 17 which the hon. gentleman quoted the word 'public' for 'public or separate schools.' Am I to understand there are separate schools in the Northwest as well as public schools?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—They are all public schools.

Hon. Mr. TALBOT—No, no.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I say yes. The ordinance, which has been confirmed by the parliament of Canada, makes provision for separate schools as well as public schools; but that is simply a designation. They are all, in law, and so treated as public schools. It makes provision for a kindergarten school as a public school.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—What is the difference in practice?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There is no difference.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—Or in practice?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Or in practice. They are all regulated by the Department of Education, and are all established by the same educational statute, and are likewise entitled to a proportionate and equal distribution of the public moneys. Though one school be termed a public school, and another a separate school and another a kindergarten school, yet they are all public schools under the law. That will not be controverted. That has been established in practice, and it has been observed most strictly. We find a Bill before us in which it is proposed, without the wish of the provinces being ascertained or expressed, that this very important fund should be diverted from the channels in which it was first

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

placed, and the door thrown open for the distribution of this fund among other kinds of schools that may hereafter be organized in the provinces. I desire to point out to hon. gentlemen wherein possible mischief may arise under the proposed amendment. It will permit of denominational schools being established by the provinces at the instance of the many denominations that are scattered throughout those three provinces. It will permit of racial schools being established at the instance of the many nationalities which are scattered throughout those provinces. It is not the desire of parliament, nor of the western people, nor of those three provinces, that there should be any machinery placed upon the statute-book, by which pressure and importunity should be brought to bear upon these legislatures to establish schools other than those schools which are at present recognized and authorized by law. Catholics and Protestants have to-day their schools, recognized by law, enjoying all the privileges and advantages which this fund can possibly give them; but it is not desirable that other nationalities should join together within the different electoral districts, say, of a province, and by combined pressure say to a legislature or government, 'In the event of your establishing for us a racial school representing the nationality to which we belong, and distributing this public money amongst our educational institutions, we shall give you our approval and support.' It cannot be contended for a moment that a condition of affairs such as that is desirable. Is it desirable that the many fanatical religious organizations which exist throughout the length and breadth of that western country should exercise this influence and power? Is it desirable that those organizations should, by a combination, say to a government: 'We will give you our support if you distribute this fund amongst our educational institutions.' I say, no. There are two great divisions in this country, Roman Catholics and Protestants, that are recognized and treated alike by law, and it is not desirable that any further division should be made or walls established. I say most emphatically that when those lands were set apart by the government for the educational purposes