

AUTONOMY, PROVINCIAL, IN THE NORTHWEST—*Con.*

*Lawrence, F. A. (Colchester)—Con.*

case—4754. The system of schools prevailing in the Northwest—4755. Quotes Mr. Fielding—4756. And Mr. Ames—4757. The description warrants us in saying the Northwest Territories to-day possess the ideal system—4758. This system has been in operation for thirty years—4759. Now is presented again an attempt to plunge this country into strife and heart-burnings over this question—4760. Quotes the Canadian correspondent of the Boston 'Transcript'—4761-2. Mr. Borden has abdicated leadership and left his party to go as they please—4763. If his amendment means anything, he ought to be able to interpret it—4764. In case of changes, it is a thousand times better this system should be crystallized into an Act—4765. The premier has taken a liberal, tolerant and patriotic stand—4767.

*Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—2915.*

Borden confined his remarks for the moment to two of those questions only—the ownership of lands and the school question—2915. I stand again as I believe, upon the rock of the constitution of Canada—2916. This parliament should give to the minority the same rights that are given to the minorities in Quebec and Ontario—2917. In the matter of education, provincial rights were not supreme, but they are abbreviated by the very letter of the constitution—2918. If they have acquired rights thereby, are not these rights sacred as if they had been erected into provinces?—2919. Haultain argues that this House has simply to admit the province and it becomes subject to section 93—2920. What is the history of clause 93 in the B. N. A. Act, how did it become a part of the B. N. A. Act?—2921. Quotes Mr. Galt in the confederation conferences and the Quebec Education Act—2921-2. Quotes the Montreal 'Gazette' in 1866—2923-4. Wherever a system of separate schools exists, that system comes into force and is constitutionally entitled to the guarantees—2925. The constitution of Canada has been and is a compromise between different elements in order to produce a great result—2926.

*Lavergne, A. (Montmagny)—3032.*

Did not Sproule say a moment ago that the system of separate schools was bad?—3032. If they wish to re-enact the present educational system we have no complaint to make—3033. The people of Quebec have many relatives in the Northwest—3034. Does Sproule think that the Protestants would be more apt to stay in Quebec if there were no schools?—3041. Would it be any better if they were obliged to go to a French system of national schools?—3042.

I asked if he contended that the system of separate schools was a bad one, and he (Sproule) answered yes—3497.

Where the Catholics are in a majority, they cannot form a separate school, but have to

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go to the public school—3550. I propose to confine my remarks to that part of the measure which has created so much sensation—3745. If ever there was a right based on justice and equity, it is the right of the Catholics of the Northwest to their separate schools—3746. Some of the promises made to the provinces, from which you can judge what was the idea of the fathers of confederation—3747. The time has come when the pledge made by Lord Carnarvon must be kept—3748. It is the mob that tries to enlighten the political statesman of the Conservative party—3749. The Protestant minority as it then existed believed that the Northwest Territories would be a second province of Quebec—3750. My view is that the Northwest Territories are not yet members of the confederation of Canada—3751. It is true the B. N. A. Act is an imperial statute, but is one worded by Canadians, passed on Canadian's resolution—3752. There was no compact with these Territories, there was no synalogmatic contract—3753. In giving these Territories autonomy there should be a clear and precise declaration as to what is confederation—3754. You would perhaps hear a little less of their cries about loyalty and see in them a little more of the true spirit of loyalty—3755. I am proud to say that I am in favour of religious instruction in schools—3756. It was Dr. Salton, who, speaking in Ottawa, said that the morality of Quebec was lower than that of any other province of the Dominion—3757. Would sooner appeal to public passion than take the opportunity to obtain a little enlightenment—3758. We started our schools only in 1846, we have made marvellous progress, and to-day our system is at the head of the whole confederation—3759. I said that our system of schools in Quebec was started in 1846. But it was not in full operation until 1855—3760. We object, not only to being obliged to send Catholic children to Protestant schools—3761. Quotes 'Orange Sentinel'—3762. Sproule, if not in this House, at least in his paper, has made appeals to racial and religious prejudices—3763. We have been loyal to British institutions and we have been loyal to the Canadian constitution—3764. I claim if there was only one separate school in the Northwest Territories we should just the same render justice—3765. I maintain that we have a right to claim that justice should be done to us as we have deserved—3766. Lord Carnarvon made two speeches. Saw no emasculation—4439. Bourassa never said he was quoting it as a whole—4440.

*Lemieux, Hon. R. (Solicitor General)—3029.*

A very bad system. I stand for the British system. Leaving aside the case of France, let us, as a British colony, deal with a case nearer home—3029. Is Sproule in favour of the system now in existence in Great Britain, which is a denominational system?—3030. To remove doubts—3072.