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MR. PARÉ'S SPEECH.

The Member for LaVerandrye During the Debate on the Address Touches on Several Points of Interest.

Mr. Speaker—Although this debate has lasted long I have thought I should take this opportunity for making a few remarks.

The scope of discussion opened by the speech from the throne is surely a wide one even if we only consider the two questions of federal interest alluded to, the tariff and the senate.

THE TARIFF.

On the question of the tariff it is evident to me that the former advocates of free trade have become protectionists. As in the days of the Conservative administration what the country does not produce and we cannot supplement by another product of the country attaining the same object, is admitted free of duty or on the basis of duty for revenue. For articles which are natural products of the country or products of our manufactures a higher scale of tariff is used. There have been modifications, and as our industries will progress the protective duty will likely from year to year be reduced in order to have the community and not only a few individuals benefit by protection. I do not blame the administration for the maintenance of a protective tariff, as I consider it the only safe and intelligent policy for Canada. How otherwise could the country be prosperous when we have a powerful neighbor who can suffice to himself in anything from the products of the tropics to those of the northern region, who has nothing to envy other countries in respect of industries, and who is an out and out protectionist.

THE SENATE.

On the question of the Senate we have heard the Hon. the Premier say in substance that the Senate is one wheel too many in our state car. In that the Hon. gentleman remarked that he differed from the gentleman leading at Ottawa. I was reading not long ago the report of a banquet held in Montreal when Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave his views on the Senate. He said that as he grew in age his views were getting more conservative, and he was not for the abolition of the Senate. His conservatism was the result of experience, of his getting wiser as he grew in age; it was an improving condition as I admit also. Speaking to Liberals he warned them his conservatism was a genuine one, ignored among the Conservatives of the country. Since that time we are informed his Senate would be exposed to be controlled by the House of Commons. I say that such a body would be a useless institution and I would sooner do away with it altogether. I am for the maintenance of an independent senate as a safeguard against bad legislation. A system could perhaps be devised to withdraw the choice of its members from the influence of

parties. Its members could perhaps be appointed by independent bodies such as university councils and judges in each province. The condition of the Senate could also be made more independent if it was provided that a senator could not remain a senator and be a minister of the crown.

IMMIGRATION.

Much has been said regarding immigration. For my part I welcome the people who have chosen to come to the province. I believe man by his nature and by his end to be naturally good and I am averse to casting out any nationality. As to immigration I question whether the large expenditure to that end represents a wise outlay, and if filling the country would be in the best interest of the settlers. Surely we want settlers to create traffic and thus facilitate the construction and profitable operating of railway lines; but Manitoba is not a country for a dense population. As to the wheat fields of the west, although I have no personal knowledge of that portion of the province, I understand a farmer must have quite a large area of land; he must cultivate extensively as, before his wheat reaches the consumer a lot of money has to be taken off the proceeds of the sale in freight and commissions; the profits on the large number of bushels have to make up for the small profit per bushel. With us in the east of the province the condition of farming is different, but necessitates for each farmer the enjoyment of a large area of land. Our soil is rich, one of the richest in the province, but owing to intermixture of low and higher land is more adapted for mixed farming.

MIXED FARMING.

Well, mixed farming means the necessity of having a certain area of grazing land, of hay land, as well as land for cultivation. The pastures are not lasting, and the growing of hay seems to be a problem far from being solved. The stock requires a large area of land. Men of experience consider that between land required for cultivation, for pasture and for hay it takes from three to four hundred acres for a farm that has to keep up a herd of say 60 head. The time for the growth of grass is very short; there is seldom any growth after the middle of July. The fact of the grass being trampled over by the cattle grazing, destroys as much grass as the grazing. It is doubtful whether a new kind of grass will be found to improve the pastures, as the time for vegetation seems to be short on account of climatic causes. The drought and the hot sun in the summer months seem to be partly the cause of the failing of the pastures. There are exceptional years such as last year when we had poor pastures in the early months of the season of growth, and we had in July, August, and a part of September, favorable weather for growing grass, but my experience is that state of things is an exceptional one.

THE OAK LAKE BANQUET.

Certain references have been made which call my attention. I must say that it is with a deep feeling that I approach the subject. A banquet, it was said, was tendered to Mr. Hugh John Macdonald at Oak Lake in the course of January, 1899, and the programme contained, as a part-

ing word, "Remember Bagot." Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any occurrence that would lead me to connect Mr. Macdonald with the inscription of those words in the programme referred to, nor of anything that would be a repudiation of the same on his part. But the expression "Remember Bagot" seems to me as the echo of a feeling, and I ask those who entertain that feeling if there are not reasons not justifying but explaining the attitude of Quebec in the federal elections.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

For my part I gave and give credit to the Conservative government for committing itself to the Remedial Bill brought before the house at Ottawa in the session of 1896, and I have no right to suspect the sincerity of the leader of the government in bringing forth the measure. I blame Mr. Laurier for not helping the passage of that bill. The Manitoba minority were the sufferers, and were a unit in demanding the legislation, and his most distinguished and devoted followers in the minority here wished the adoption of the measure. It contained liberty of teaching and means of existence. It relieved us from the burden of being taxed, from having even our school houses taxed, for support of public schools, and it made it possible to organize our schools. To-day we bow to authority and conform ourselves to the present state of things, making the best of the circumstances. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had placed himself in a dilemma, to either retire from public life or to continue his policy of sacrificing the constitutional rights of the minority and resorting to the proceeding of urging some concessions in place of our vested rights to liberty in teaching. On June 23, 1896, I supported the Conservative government very heartily and up to the present date I see in that vote the accomplishment of a duty. Nevertheless I must say to those who I consider have acted in a spirit of justice to the minority: I believe the long adjournment of July, 1895, was a mistake and has been fatal to our cause and to their interests. I have no right to attribute motives to the authors of the cabinet crisis which took place at the opening of the session of 1896, and I do not impute any motives. But I say that in considering the attitude of the mass of the electors in the province of Quebec one must not overlook the circumstances which I have already mentioned and the fact that six years had elapsed since the enactment of the school act of 1890 and the difficulty still remained unsettled, that Mr. Laurier and his friends, before the electors, insisted on that delay, that they denied the sincerity of the Cabinet with a color of right, that they gave as proofs of their contention the several cabinet crises, and I ask you to then add to all this the fact that the one claiming their support was one of themselves and you will be inclined to view the result in a different manner.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

Some are anxious to know the situation of our schools now. It is that of people who surrender,—part of our schools are public schools—but the surrender is only partial and may or may not last. I say partial, for where we form a group of a certain importance but not important

enough to secure the control of the teaching element directing the school we have voluntary schools. And I have not to go far for an illustration. The Catholics in Winnipeg are supporting voluntary schools although they have to contribute their share in all the rates levied for the maintenance of the public schools and in the building of palatial schools which the public school trustees are erecting in this city.

I take this opportunity of affirming that principles guide the attitude of the minority. We have no ambition, nor do we look for any favor, we will contend for liberty and justice. We will give credit for any thing done towards improving the situation. And I know that my colleagues the members for Carillon and St. Boniface are endorsing what I say.

RAILWAYS.

I will say a few words about railways. Our section of the country has now the advantage of a railroad. The advantages afforded are invaluable. Isolated sections of country are brought within reach of the market at any time in the year, and with a direct saving of money in the transport expenses, leaving the saving of time to be utilized on the farm as a net profit. The policy of building railroads in a discriminating manner with a view of opening the country, is a good one. As to the best bargains, the government is in a better position to be informed, and the house though called upon to endorse or reject a bargain relies upon the administration to do the best in the circumstances. With our eyes open we have assumed responsibilities which may one day turn out to be a grave charge on the revenue of the Province. Something calls to my mind the grants given by the government for the several objects indicated yearly in the budget. Grants are very popular and it is the duty of the government to give back to the people as much as possible of the people's money. But I believe that to make our receipts balance our expenditure, the true resort will be the decreasing of the grants. Cutting down grants may not be popular, even mentioning the fact may look to some as the point of view of a narrow minded man, but I believe this to be the incoming necessity considering our fixed revenue. We have already the interest on railroad bonds which is gradually absorbing the amounts left from the proceeds of the sale of provincial debentures.

Before resuming my seat I must congratulate the member for St. Boniface for his allusion to the printing in French of the order of the day and of the votes and proceedings of the house. He only expressed a just claim and I heartily join in seconding the desire.

HON. SENATOR BERNIER

SPEAKS IN THE SENATE ON THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

On account of the general desire that exists for closing the debate to-night, I shall not detain the House long, but I ask to be allowed to make a few remarks in connection with the question which has been agitated for some years, which is still unsettled, but which is put in jeopardy by the course taken by

the government. I refer to the Manitoba school question. This year as last year, the Speech from the Throne has omitted any reference to this question. I am not surprised at that. I expected the government would take that course; yet it is precisely against that course I enter my protest. There are no rights belonging to any individual or section of the country which are so clear, so well defined, and so indisputable as the rights of the minority in Manitoba, yet these rights have been trampled upon for ten years. These rights have been secured by Imperial promises, by Federal promises, by provincial promises. They have been embodied in the constitution, and they are within the spirit of the principles underlying the whole political fabric of this country; yet these rights have been trampled upon for the last ten years, and I am bound to confess that the chance for the minority to recover their rights is losing ground on account of the course taken by the government. The policy of the government is to do nothing for the relief of the minority. It is to force, as it were, upon the people, the belief that the school question is settled. It is my duty to protest against that course, and if you want to know in what shape the school question is at present, whether it is settled or not, I beg you to hear the latest utterances of Mr. Greenway on the 13th of February last, in which he said:

There were people who at the present time were making it their business to cast insinuations at the government's attitude on the matter of public schools. These people did not hesitate to say that the government had weakened in the position it had all along adopted, and of these he wished to say that they never made a greater mistake. It was impossible for the government to keep officials watching at the door of every school, but one thing the government would and could do was to see to it that, if the regulations governing the management of these schools were violated, the government grant would be withheld. The government stood to-day where it has always stood since the passing of the Public School Act. Its aim was to make the people of this province one in education, and one in helping to develop the country, and it would brook no interference in carrying out its policy along these lines.

This is the way the school question is settled. We are expected to drop our claims and submit quietly to that law which for ten years we have been fighting with all the energy we could. This we cannot be expected to do, and I want to enter, at this stage of the debate, my protest against the government and against their policy. It will be our duty, again and again, until the question is settled, as it ought to be settled, to affirm our rights, to affirm the jurisdiction of this parliament, and to demand that this Parliament exercise their powers by providing a true and constitutional remedy for the grievances of the minority, and a remedy of a permanent character.

The Most Rev. Denis O'Connor, hitherto Bishop of London, received during Holy Week his official appointment as Archbishop of Toronto. This is the third time he has succeeded Mgr Walsh: the first time was when he took his place as Superior of the Sandwich College, and the second when he replaced him as Bishop of London. His Grace the new Archbishop of the Queen City will probably be installed in St. Michael's Cathedral during the first week in May. Until that date the Very Rev. Jos. J. McCann remains Administrator of the archdiocese.