

of Quebec. I will refer briefly to the "Manual of the School Law and Regulations of the province of Quebec, together with an Outline of School Organization for the use of Candidates for Teachers' Diplomas, under the Regulation of the Protestant Committee;" prepared by Rev. E. I. Rexford, Rector of the High School, Montreal, and formerly secretary of the Department of Public Instruction. I will show from that how much is involved to the Protestants of Quebec, and how happily it is, that we can get on a broader plane than that of acting for one sect or the other, and that we can stand up, as I believe we are standing up, for minorities of all the provinces, whether that minority be Protestant, or whether it be Catholic. In this Manual Mr. Rexford says:

Since confederation a number of important amendments have been made to our educational law. \* \* \*

In 1869 a law concerning education was passed by the new legislature of Quebec, which contained several important provisions. These were adopted after numerous consultations between leading representatives of the Protestant minority and the Government of the day. Among other things it provided that the Council of Public Instruction should be composed of fourteen Roman Catholics and seven Protestants, and that these two sections should be committees of the Council for the consideration of matters pertaining to schools of their own faith. These committees could not take any formal action, however, except through the Council. It also provided that grants for superior education should be divided between the Roman Catholic and Protestant institutions according to the Roman Catholic and Protestant population of the province. The law of 1869 also extended the privileges of dissentients in several respects, and established the present system of the division of school taxes upon incorporated companies between the minority and the majority in a municipality in proportion to the number of children attending their respective schools.\* \*

In 1876 another important educational measure was passed by the legislature. This Act provided (1) that the Roman Catholic bishops of the province should be ex-officio members of the Council of Public Instruction; (2) that one-third of the Council should be Protestant; and (3) that each of the two committees of the Council should have the power of separate and independent action in reference to all matters which concern the educational work under their respective control. This was a most important provision. Under it, each committee appoints its own chairman and secretary, and conducts its business as an independent council. Upon the recommendation of Roman Catholic or Protestant committee, as the case may be, professors of normal schools, school inspectors, members of the Board of Examiners, and the secretaries of the Department of Public Instruction, are appointed by the Government. By placing the choice of these officers for Protestant institutions in the hands of the Protestant committee, an important guarantee has been given that these appointments will be made in a manner acceptable to the Protestant minority. And although it is not stated in the law that one of the two secretaries of the Department of Public Instruction shall be a Protestant, this is practically secured by the method of appointment.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Will the hon. gentleman permit me to ask him, whether he contends that such a board is a right or a privilege, within the meaning of the Act?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I certainly think so, but whatever I may think is not of so much importance in the matter. That has been threshed out in the debate; but I call to my aid this—and I do it for the sake of saving considerable time. The leader of the Opposition, coming from Quebec, a Catholic; and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Ives), coming from Quebec, a Protestant—they both attach the greatest importance to these safeguards that have been given to the Protestants of Quebec since 1867. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to remember, and I ask, through you, this House to remember, the words of wisdom that fell from the lips of the old Liberal-Conservative chief, words which, certainly, with the majority of his countrymen, did obtain sufficiently to make acceptable this compromise with the Catholic population of Canada, this arrangement in regard to separate schools. Early in his days, when he had to fight on this question in the Protestant province of Ontario battles a good deal hotter than we have to fight now, his great justification for leaving the law as it is, for even improving it in the line of separate schools, was: That, while he would have preferred a system of general schools, yet it was one thing to give a right, or a franchise to the people, and another thing to take it away. That is the principle, I believe, that was at the bottom of this clause, which indicates to Manitoba, and indicates to all the provinces, which indicates, certainly, to Nova Scotia, according to public opinion there, that, where they once establish a separate school system there by law, there was a real and substantial undertaking, under the Confederation Act, that they should not repeal it. That induces, I believe, the Protestant majority in my province to work out harmoniously, as they are working out, their provincial school system, without an amendment to the Act. If it were not for that, they would many a time, I believe, have amended the Act, but the fact, that it is to stand there for all time, has induced them to proceed in what I consider a policy that is not only commendable, but which reflects credit on the intelligence and on the spirit of toleration of the people of my native province. As was so eloquently and brilliantly described by the Minister of Finance, that, after all, is the policy that has made the British Empire what she is to-day. That, for instance, has induced these people in the Transvaal to submit to what some of my friends opposite will not submit to—the judicial tribunals of the United Kingdom. It is not merely a spirit of toleration and a spirit of justice, that is inculcated in all quarters and in all portions of the Empire, but it is the fact of recogniz-