

Mr. McALISTER. When was that published ?

Mr. McCARTHY. About ten days ago. It continues :

The agitation to restore separate schools in Manitoba is not kept up by the Roman Catholic people of Manitoba or of those of Quebec. The grievance is the grievance of the Roman Catholic clergy, the agitation is the work of the clergy, who seek to keep control of the education of the young, and who are exerting their utmost efforts to that end.

Let me now give the House an extract from a letter written to the Prime Minister by Mr. Sellar, who is living in Huntingdon, a journalist, and a man who has spent his life there, knows what he is speaking about. What does he say ?

Sir, the non-Catholics of Quebec have had no rights or privileges granted them by the majority and are ignorant of any favours received from that majority, they have simply been left in the enjoyment of what is their inherent right, the non-sectarian schools designed by the old legislature of the united provinces. You say the minority of Manitoba is entitled to the same rights and privileges as have been granted to the minority of Quebec. Let me enumerate to you a few of these privileges. When the non-Catholics are not numerous enough to maintain a school of their own, they are taxed to keep up a school it is impossible for them to send their children to, when a non-Catholic becomes a stockholder in a factory, he pays taxes to support Catholic schools, when the non-Catholic looks into the blue-books he learns that the legislature pays yearly out of the public treasury, in the name of education, subsidies to 200 convents and a score of colleges, among the latter being the institutions of the Jesuits.

The non-Catholics of Quebec have no fear for themselves should Manitoba remain true to the stand it has taken in favour of secular schools, for to speak of the majority retaliating upon them is absurd.

I would the people of Canada realized the significance of what its Government is proposing to do. A stroke of the pen by George III. would have prevented those struggles between church and state which have made the government of Canada at all times difficult and twice in our history brought it to a standstill. The remedial order, looked upon by some as a small matter, is going to decide whether our North-west is to be free from the strife that has afflicted the provinces by the St. Lawrence or to be subject to it. Force upon the North-west separate schools, and the point of the wedge is entered which will involve the west in the troubles and difficulties that perplex Quebec.

So we get from every independent source a protest from the Protestants of Quebec not to allow their position to sway us in the slightest degree in considering what we shall do in the case of the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I did desire to say a word about the so-called privileges of the Protestant minority. I have examined that question, and I venture to say that when it is examined and thoroughly understood, it will be found that the Protestants have no

thing to thank the majority for. But it is beside this question. I have been irritated by the claim that has been made time and again to us in this House to do this, that or the other, in consideration of the generosity bestowed on the minority by the majority in that province, and when the proper time and occasion arrive, I think I shall be able to show that the minority have nothing to thank the majority for. One thing I may mention. One grievance of long-standing, often complained of, never redressed, is that while all commercial companies, certainly nine-tenths of the commercial companies in the province are English, the tax derived from that property is distributed according to population, and is not allowed to go to support their own system of schools. We do not claim great generosity in our province. But what is our law ? Our law is that of the tax on the corporations, not less than the proportion belonging to the Roman Catholic shareholders is to go to the Roman Catholic schools, and as much more as the directors of the company think fit to bestow. The law in the other province is this : Taking the great city of Montreal, I am within the judgment of hon. members as to whether I am not right in saying that nine-tenths of the commercial companies are English, and day by day men are forming companies, even storekeeping is being conducted by joint stock companies, and the tax from these corporations does not go to the support of the dissentient schools to which the children of the shareholders are sent, but it is distributed according to population, which stands as four or five Catholics to one Protestant in that province.

But I must draw my remarks to a close, and I do so thanking the House very much for the indulgent hearing I have received. The subject is a large one and a wide one, but, after all, the whole matter lies in a nutshell. There have been legal difficulties, they have been all cleared up. The matter now is so plain and simple that no man and almost no child can fail to comprehend and understand it. It is in a word, that the province of Manitoba had the power to pass the law of 1890 ; that if we leave that law alone it remains a perfectly valid and constitutional law ; that we have the power, under the circumstances which have occurred, to implement the order of the Governor General, and to pass a good Remedial Bill. Whether we should pass that Bill or not is a matter, like every other question that comes before Parliament, that is one not merely of justice, but, if I might put it in a few words, it is one as to whether it is just, politic, and wise for us to interfere. Justice alone is too narrow a term. Justice may mean to one man who looks at the question, one thing, and to another man another thing. If we sat here as a court of law merely, to administer the positive rules of law, I can understand that there would be no difficulty in its administration. We