

they argue that the French Canadians would be swamped in the west?

Mr. BOURASSA. Do you want an answer?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yes, the answer is given by Monseigneur Taché. I have it here. Monseigneur Taché some years ago—

Mr. BOURASSA. Circumstances have changed.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Circumstances have not changed. Will my hon. friend deny that the organ of the clergy in the province of Quebec, a paper which I hold in my hand, 'La Vérité'—

Mr. BOURASSA. I deny it.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend is strong in denials when the facts are brought forward before the House.

Mr. BOURASSA. Will my hon. friend state on his responsibility that 'La Vérité' is the organ of the clergy of the province of Quebec?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will state, Mr. Speaker, that 'La Vérité' is generally known as the organ of the clergy in the province of Quebec, and my hon. friend knows it well. Some days ago the Rev. Father Lacombe, an old missionary well known to many members of this House, came back from the west, and as usual he gave an interview to a journalist in Montreal. That journalist asked Father Lacombe: How about the French Canadians in the west? And Father Lacombe answered: We have not the French Canadian immigration that we should have into the west, because 'La Vérité' prevented the French Canadians from settling there some years ago. Being rather nettled by the statement made by this old missionary, 'La Vérité' has taken up the question, and in its issue of the 16th of March last 'La Vérité' discusses that question with Father Lacombe, and gives word for word the language used by Monseigneur Taché between 1870 and 1890. An old missionary had gone to Monseigneur Taché and asked him if he would allow him to bring some French Canadians from the province of Quebec into the Northwest Territories, and Monseigneur Taché answered: No, it is perfectly useless, you should not depopulate the province of Quebec where the French Canadians are strong and bring them into that vast Northwest territory. Will my hon. friend deny that? I accept the word of 'La Vérité' although 'La Vérité' is pretty hard on me sometimes, Mr. Speaker. I translate again from the French into English:

From 1872—

Says 'La Vérité':

—Monseigneur Taché was opposed to French-Canadian immigration. If French Canadians come here, he said, we will receive them, but

Mr. LEMIEUX.

let us not appeal to the province of Quebec to migrate to Manitoba. It would be too grave a responsibility. One of his priests who lives to-day and who resides in Manitoba proposed to the bishop to recruit some settlers in the province of Quebec, but Monseigneur Taché stoutly opposed such a plan.

There is a marginal note.

We received this information from an old missionary from the Northwest.

So, Mr. Speaker, when my hon. friends are appealing to the province of Quebec that this government does not do its duty towards helping immigration from France or towards helping French immigration from the province of Quebec to the Northwest they are making vain appeals. First of all, as I have already proven, the French do not emigrate, and secondly the natural leaders of the French Canadian people—I mean their religious leaders in that province—are not in favour of emigration to the Northwest. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have stated plainly what are my views with regard to the question which was raised this afternoon. I know that I will be taken to task in the province of Quebec and misrepresented by my hon. friend from Montmagny whom I have helped to be elected, as trying to get the sympathies of the majority of the English speaking members of this House at the expense of French emigration, but I am well enough known on both sides, and I have a past of which I am proud enough to appeal to my own countrymen, to appeal to their sound common sense to which we have appealed on so many occasions and which has brought us victory in the past. I have said, Mr. Speaker.

At six o'clock House took recess.

#### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

#### MANITOBA RADIAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

Further consideration of amendments made by the Senate to Bill (No. 46) to incorporate the Manitoba Radial Railway Company.—Mr. Bole.

Mr. FIELDING. In this case the Senate struck out a clause which had relation to the power of the company to run its line through a municipality; the Senate taking the view that the Railway Act, 1903, was sufficient protection. The promoters of the Bill thought this was not so, and I understand that at the request of the city of Winnipeg the amendment was not concurred in by the committee. I move that the first amendment be disagreed to.

Mr. SPROULE. The reason given in the committee was that the General Railway Act does not safeguard the rights of the municipality.