

# EVENTS

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## *Debate on the Autonomy Bill.*

**T**HE debate on the second reading of the bill granting autonomy to the Northwest Territories, which began in the Canadian House of Commons on the 22nd of March is still in progress. Mr. R. L. Borden, the leader of the Opposition, who claimed, however to speak only for himself moved an amendment to strike out the words that the bill be now read a second time, and to substitute the following:—

That upon the establishment of a Province in the Northwest Territories of Canada as proposed by Bill No. 69, the Legislature of such Province subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act 1867 to 1886, is entitled to and shall enjoy full powers of Provincial self government including power to exclusively make laws in relation to education.

Mr. Monk, who is the leading Conservative from the Province of Quebec, refused to accept this amendment and made a speech whose argument was in direct contradiction to the argument presented by the Conservative leader and other Conservative members. He deplored that this question of schools had been discussed with so

much passion in Public. He thought that many of the mischievous utterances were made in ignorance as to the real state of affairs. He entered into a constitutional argument diametrically opposed to that of Mr. R. L. Borden and in justification to the view taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier Mr. Monk took the position that section 93 of the B. N. A. Act did apply to the new Provinces immediately they were created, but if, as some contended, that section did not apply there was a moral obligation on the part of this parliament to themselves provide a protection. He declared that a clause drafted by Mr. Haultain, which he read, went even farther than the clause in the proposed bill. The Conservative leader from Quebec closed a remarkable speech as follows:—

"Mr. Speaker, I have finished. I do not wish to go one step farther, but you will allow me in closing to quote the last sentence of Mr. Balfour's speech upon the Education Bill:

No other scheme—be it what you like—will give to the educational evils of this country the complete, radical and final