

lands than to continue the management of them by the Dominion government. However, in the setting apart of the two new provinces in the west, the present government have not thought that advisable. It is not necessary for me to enter into any reason why they thought so. I regretted exceedingly to hear the speech made by the hon. Secretary of State. There was nothing advanced by the hon. leader of the opposition to justify the remarks which he made, or to justify a portion of the remarks made by the hon. senator from Middlesex. The hon. senator from Calgary never intimated that the provinces in the west might pass a law to establish public schools to be controlled by the Doukhobors and other settlers in that country, whose opinions and views we do not desire to have promulgated or taught in this country.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—He referred to denominational schools.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I understand exactly what he said. I listened very attentively to him. What he stated was this: not that the governments of these provinces might establish these schools, because if they establish the schools they would be entitled to all the rights and privileges given to other public schools; but he stated that if this money was to be distributed to all schools, the Doukhobors and similar classes of people whose doctrines we do not desire to have taught in this country, might establish schools and demand under that clause their proportion of the fund. That has been twisted into a charge that he stated that the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta might establish these schools. He knew, and so does every one else know, that if they establish such schools they will become public schools at once, and entitled to all the advantages that would accrue from the fund. Although the hon. Secretary of State only said that he had no knowledge whatever of the word 'public' being left out of the clause which we are now considering, he has given a reason why it was omitted or should have been omitted. His fear was that if the word 'public' was not left out of the Bill, denominational or sep-

arate schools which may be established in the future would be deprived of their share of the school fund under whatever regulations might exist. Now, the country can understand why the word 'public' was left out, if the hon. gentleman's interpretation and explanation be accepted as correct. But there is another point; why should the hon. leader of the opposition be charged, as he was directly, by the hon. Secretary of State, and, inferentially, by the hon. gentleman from Middlesex, with having tried to raise a sectarian cry and difficulties of which have had God knows enough in this country in the past? What he stated was this, and the hon. Secretary of State has not said one word to controvert it, that in the distribution of the fund at the present moment, they never ask a question whether a school is organized and controlled by Catholics or Protestants? What he stated was that the money was distributed equally according to the number of pupils attending, and equitably among all schools, no matter whether they were controlled or managed by one denomination or by another or by any particular race. The only question was as to whether they continued to be public schools. That is the position the hon. gentleman took, and the charges made by the hon. Secretary of State came with an ill grace from him when he drew any such deduction from my hon. friend's remarks. The hon. gentleman referred to the Manitoba school question. I shall not enter into that. I had enough to do with it in the past. My own views were strongly in favour of provincial autonomy and of respecting the rights and privileges of a character described by the hon. senator from Middlesex. I go further, and say that the rights and privileges granted to the people of any of the provinces when they were established, whether of a sectarian, a civil or a religious character, should be maintained in their integrity, and not be permitted to be taken from them by any of the provinces. I have taken that position in the past; I am strongly of that idea at the present, and I know of no reason why I should change my views. In the setting apart by the Conservative government of two sections of land in each township in Manitoba and the Northwest