

province of Manitoba shall be selected, and that the question shall be dealt with as a matter of treaty entered into with the Selkirk settlement in 1870, then I say that the Dominion government should restore those rights which the minority of Manitoba are suffering from, irrespective of the legislation of the province of Manitoba. There is nothing in the legislation of the province which prevents the minority from educating their children as they see fit.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—But you are taking away the money with which they should do it.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I was about to say so. I say there is nothing in the School Act of Manitoba which prevents the Roman Catholic minority from conducting their education as they see fit. But it withholds the public funds from that source of education unless they come under the School Act and conduct their schools in accordance with the statutes of the province; therefore if the question is to be dealt with as a matter of treaty between the 12,000 of a population with whom the negotiations were carried on in 1870 and the parliament of Canada, then I say that a grant should be made by the Dominion parliament to the district comprised in the Selkirk settlement in order to place those schools which have been deprived of their privileges in a position that they may be carried on in accordance with the views of the minority. There is a vast difference between introducing concurrent legislation and taking a step of that kind. I warned the hon. leader of the government and the parliament of Canada that if they proposed to introduce remedial legislation which shall be concurrent legislation on the statute-books under which the Dominion authorities shall take charge of and manage separate schools in the province of Manitoba, while the province itself manages public schools, it will be resisted to the utmost by the people of the province of Manitoba—constitutionally resisted—but resisted to the utmost, and in saying so I do not express the opinion of a party but the people as a whole. The Privy Council has decided beyond a question that the exclusive right of conducting school matters in each province belongs to the local authorities subject to the appeal clauses. If the appeal clauses are to be dealt with by the parliament of

Canada which has a perfectly free hand, as a principle of confederation, after the experience of 28 years, then any Act which is placed on the statute-book should apply equally to every province of the Dominion. It is not a question of bringing down remedial legislation. The Premier has, I think, taken a right and constitutional course in placing the ruling of the Privy Council before parliament. The *ultimathule* of the legal interpretation applied for by the minority is to place the matter before the parliament of Canada. I say parliament should be seized with all the facts before they are able to express a fair and proper idea as to what is the right policy to pursue, because it is a matter of policy, not a matter of right before parliament. No one can contend for a second that the judgment emanating from the judicial committee of the Privy Council is obligatory on the part of Canada or compels them to follow any course. The constitutional power of the parliament of Canada is perfect; it has a free hand to annul, expunge or modify any Act that is passed within its constitutional limits, and the question with which the parliament of Canada has now to deal is how shall we deal with this matter when it comes before it? Shall we deal with it in a spirit by which we shall invade the domain of the provincial legislature, or shall we simplify matters by placing the small minority of Manitoba in such a position that it can conduct its education as it was accustomed to do before the legislation of Manitoba was put on the statute-book until a change of public opinion takes place in Manitoba itself. If you give the province of Manitoba time, I believe all legitimate grievances will be removed, but no British subject will yield to threats or to compulsion, and the absence of compulsion may lead to a better understanding. I have the greatest sympathy with the leader of the government in the difficulties which surround him, but as a member representing the interests of the people of Manitoba, I feel that while the rights of the minority of that province are being discussed I cannot refrain from rising and defending the rights of the whole province which are endangered by the proposed legislation.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I must say that I regret the line which this discussion has taken to-day. We came here for the purpose of hearing the explanation of the first