

AUTONOMY, PROVINCIAL, IN THE NORTH-
WEST—*Con.*

Northrup, W. B. (Hastings, E.)—Con.

province of Quebec, as a matter of fact, the majority have their schools conducted on religious lines—3145. If any compact has been made by which we are bound to give to the Northwest separate schools, I will take the same stand that I took in 1896—3146. If there is no legal or binding obligation to re-enact that law, then we on this side of the House cannot be blamed—3147. If we prefer not to enact it—3148. This educational clause with these broad powers is really an educational adviser to the educational commissioner—3149. Is it any wonder that some people dislike crystallizing in law for all time to come this provision?—3150. I suppose that when the public moneys are to be distributed under this Bill, they must be distributed equitably—3151. The idea of splitting up the schools is not calculated to improve the class of immigrants coming into the country—3152.

Oliver, Frank (Edmonton)—3152.

I do not know what qualification Borden demands from members who address this House—3152. The difference is a difference between clerical control of schools and national control of schools—3153. In considering the question of autonomy, we have to consider our peculiar position—3154. We know that we must have the means or we cannot have the success—3155. We could not make money as quickly in any other way than by waiting a few years longer for provincial autonomy—3156. The conditions are different, the terms must be different; the terms are different, and in so far the terms are satisfactory—3157. We have secured a very satisfactory arrangement, at least as satisfactory as we can expect to secure—3158. The people of the Territories have been overcome by the financial terms offered to these provinces in the Autonomy Bill—3159. I am one of those who pin their faith unreservedly to a system of national schools established for the purpose of educating the people of the country—3160. Quotes various petitions—3160-1. Is this a demonstration of objection to separate schools, or is it an attempt to wreck the Liberal government?—3162. If a wrong has been done, let us right that wrong and right it now—3163. Quotes the draft Bill of 1901—3164. It does not allude in any degree—it carefully refrains from alluding, to the collective powers which may be exercised by legislation—3165. That advisory board is simply an advisory board, and has no other duties than to give expert advice—3166. We object to separate schools, not on religious grounds at all, but merely on the grounds of efficiency—3167. We have an efficient school system in the Northwest Territories, a very efficient school system—3168. We had hoped that our entrance into confederation as full-fledged provinces would be under altogether auspicious circumstances—3169.

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Osler, E. B. (West Toronto)—3006.

This is the first time that the religious question has been introduced—3006. The premier in presenting this Bill thought it was going to be a very light and simple matter—4404. Haultain, Sifton and Fielding were deliberately ignored—4405. There has been no attempt to raise the excitement of the people of the west—4406. The provisions of these Bills should have been submitted to the people at the general elections—4407. There was more than a simple redrafting of the clause to cause all that delay—4408. Willison has to undo all that he has done and rewrite Laurier's biography, as he now knows him—4409.

Paquet, Eugène (L'Islet)—4798.

Mr. Borden has constituted himself the champion of the west—4798. The Dominion parliament is supreme and can legislate to protect minorities—4799. Quotes Sir John Macdonald in 1890, showing him the champion of the 'habitants'—4800. Blake caused the protecting clause to be placed in the Bill of 1875—4801. Assurances of freedom induced several French-Canadians to settle in the Northwest—4802. The government does not grant much after all to the Catholic minority in the west—4803. Protestants do not attach as much importance to religious teaching—4804. What have the French-Canadians done to incur the torrent of abuse from Ontario—4805. Admires the stand taken by the clergy—4806. Lend a hand to those who wish to protect the minority in Alberta and Saskatchewan—4807.

Parmelee, C. H. (Shefford)—4886.

Fully endorses the proposal of the government in respect to the public lands of the province—4886. It is the spirit of the constitution that this parliament has tried to live up to—4887. A constitution good enough for Quebec and Ontario ought to be good enough for the new provinces—4888. Provincial rights is a very catchy phrase—4889. In Quebec the Protestant minority have not only been treated fairly but most generously—4890. Minority justified in demanding the guarantees granted them by the constitution—4891. Appeals have been made calculated to stir up angry passions—4892. The issue in the country to be creed against creed—4893. The Conservative party has gone back on every principle its great leaders laid down—4894. Be just to the minority, and give all classes reason to feel that they are safe—4895. Glad to see these latent prejudices gradually disappearing—4896.

Paterson, Hon. William (Minister of Customs)
—3045.

Sproule has emphasized his objections strongly, those objections being mainly to one portion of the Bill—3045. If I apprehend aright, Mr. Christopher Robinson does not at all take the view expressed by Borden—3046. If parliament can supplement that action, it must be because