

Blake in the other House of Parliament, which was afterwards crystallized into a statute, was, on the whole, a wise and judicious one. When questions come up which are calculated to excite strong feeling, like questions of race and religion, it is well to have an impartial tribunal to deal with them, and I am not prepared to say that Mr. Blake made a mistake in that instance. I think, however, that the event has shown that it would have been the wisest plan to have disallowed these Acts at first, because a great deal of difficulty would have been avoided. It is a very hard thing now to go back to the position in which things were in 1890. With respect to the future, I hope that the province of Manitoba will itself settle this difficulty. That province was the cause of the difficulty, and I think it should settle it. There is this further advantage to urge on behalf of such a course (among others) that any statute passed by the province could at a later date be amended if necessary, while it is questionable whether we could amend the Dominion legislation. I think we could, but the remedial order expresses a doubt, and it is better that there should not be any doubt on a question of that kind. I am glad to be able to gather, from the observations of a member of the government in the other House of Parliament, that the government would not insist upon the absolute re-enactment of the Act of 1881. That is the Act which I believe was repealed by the Act of 1890, and in it were embodied and consolidated the previous provincial Acts relating to education. In other provinces of the Dominion it has been found practicable to combine efficiency in secular teaching with a certain amount of religious training; and I feel that there ought to be statesmanship enough in the province of Manitoba to be able to bring about that state of affairs there also. I do not feel that I am authorized to speak for the opposition, but I am not going too far when I say the government may feel assured that if action on their part becomes necessary through the inaction of Manitoba, there will be no attempt on the part of the opposition to embarrass them any more than there was on the question of the Jesuits' Estates Act. The hon. the leader of the opposition stated months ago that he did not propose to make use of the Manitoba school question as a means of getting into power, and I do not think that he has changed his views upon that subject.

To my surprise I find a paragraph in his Excellency's speech referring to the existence of a depression in trade in Canada. Now I did not think that we were ever to have anything of that sort in Canada again. We were told that one of the main objects of the National Policy was to render Canada proof against all these attacks of depression in trade. This paragraph mentions the fact that this depression is world wide. Well, there was world wide depression in 1877-78, but I remember that the hon. gentlemen and their friends did not say that that was any excuse for depression in Canada then. They blamed the government of the country for it. They held that the government of the country should make the country prosperous by legislation; and we remember the contemptuous way in which the government of that day, who did not pretend that they could control this world wide depression and keep it out of Canada, were spoken of as "flies on the wheel." Now those gentlemen, who ridiculed the government of that day as flies on the wheel, have come down to Parliament and admitted that, after all, they are only flies on the wheel themselves. I am not going into this trade question particularly, but there are two or three points about it which suggest themselves to one. The government try to pose as friends of the farmers. It is a curious thing that, after seventeen years of this policy of the farmers' friends, there are according to the census about 7,000 farmers less in the country than there were in 1881. The government may be fostering national industry, but they are certainly not fostering the national farmers. The hon. the leader of the government, to my surprise, claimed for the National Policy our increased export of cheese and butter. The hon. gentleman did not show, and no hon. gentleman can show, how the National Policy, which makes the principal necessities of life dearer to the farmer, to the people who raise butter and cheese, helps them to increase their export of these articles. The letting of Australian butter into British Columbia and other parts of the country is not calculated to increase the market of the farmers. Then this paragraph of the speech, in a lame sort of a way, tries to find reasons for the deficit which they have to admit, a very large deficit, and they say that it is due to a certain extent to reduction of taxation. Now, inasmuch as a careful investigation shows that the total reduction of taxation amounts, on the business of the