

DEMANDS COURT TEST MERIT OF CATHOLIC PLEA

Dr. J. W. Edwards Claims Present Legislative Grant Favors Separate Schools.

SPEAKER QUOTES FIGURES

Declares Howe Island Grant of \$61 Per Pupil Refutes Bishop Fallon's Claim.

BY T. R. McLEOD.

That citizens of London are alive to the importance of the demands of Roman Catholics of Ontario for a more favorable division of school taxes, was evidenced by an attendance of approximately 600 people in the Masonic Temple Monday night, when Dr. J. W. Edwards, former M.P. for Frontenac, and minister of public health in the Melghen government, thoroughly discussed the question from every angle.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Public School Defence League, formed to combat further tax concessions to Roman Catholic schools in Ontario, and was enthusiastic throughout. Other speakers included E. T. Essery, K.C., and Rev. N. L. Tucker, dean of Huron.

Rev. Quintin Warner of Cronyn Memorial Church acted as chairman. In his opening remarks, Dr. Edwards pointed out that he had no intention of making any statement which would offend any member of the audience, regardless of race or creed.

Dr. Edwards first alluded to the speech delivered by His Lordship Bishop M. F. Fallon at Massey Hall, Toronto, recently in his plea for fair play, and all through his address confined his reply to this speech.

Lauds Interest Shown.

"This question must be of interest," began Dr. Edwards, "otherwise you would not be here in such large numbers. The question is growing from day to day. I will endeavor to present facts for your consideration, and arguments for your approval or disapproval, and will not break harshly on any ears here. I entertain no ill will or rancor for those who differ with me. I hold a right for my own opinion and public interest, and I certainly give to those opposed the same right as I hold myself."

"In my early life I spent some time teaching school in Ontario and Quebec, and have perhaps therefore

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RETURNS FROM BIER OF MOTHER

Norman A. Roberts has returned from Toronto, having been called away by the sudden death from heart-failure of his mother, Mary A. Roberts, of 305 Margueretta street, Friday morning. The funeral service was held at the residence Monday afternoon. William Castelli of the Catholic Apostolic Church officiated.

Mrs. Charles Berry, a daughter, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Woods, arrived in time for the service from Denver, Colorado.

If Mrs. Roberts had lived until Tuesday, Feb. 28, she would have attained the age of 71, and March 9 would have been the anniversary of her golden wedding.

She is survived by her husband, William Roberts; a daughter, Mrs. Berry, and a son, Norman A. Roberts.

given closer attention to education problems, and am not disposed to sit back in a controversy of this kind.

Referring to the wish expressed by Bishop Fallon at Toronto that a portion of his audience should be public school supporters, the speaker said: "Well, I can say the same here to-night, that I would like nothing better than to present my views to supporters of His Lordship Bishop Fallon in the hope of convincing them in part that they are wrong. There is a subject not touched upon by Archbishop McNeill and the Bishop of London, and that is legislative grants. I do not understand why they did not touch upon these sources of revenue. There are two sources, namely the grants and the money raised by the taxes on the people in the school sections. It seems quite pertinent to draw your attention to the legislative grants."

Charges Favoritism.

"Bishop Fallon has many complaints of unfair treatment of Roman Catholics in regard to their separate schools. It may be noted, however, that he has nothing whatever to say regarding the favoritism shown to Roman Catholic separate schools in the apportionment of legislative grants, which, it may be remarked, is their chief source of revenue."

"In this connection I would point out that in Middlesex County last year the average legislative grant to each public school was \$179.68, and to each separate school was \$454.86. On the basis of average daily attendance this amounted to \$7.99 for each public school pupil in the county where the Bishop of London resides, and to \$23.95 for each separate school pupil. This very obvious injustice does not apparently cause his lordship any concern."

"The separate school grants in the county of Middlesex are roughly double those to public schools. Why should Protestants pay for instruction in separate schools? Are we to conclude that the extra \$23.96 per pupil is given in recognition of the fact that the Roman Catholic doctrine is not in public schools? It cannot be because of attendance because the figures show this to be wrong."

Dr. Edwards then quoted the grants given other schools of the province, including Huron County with \$8.44 per public school attendant, and \$34

(to separate schools on the same basis; township of Ellice, with \$6.65 to public schools, and \$36.83 to separate schools on a similar basis, and Drenay Township in Perth County with \$5.33 for public schools to \$36.83 for separate schools.

"Taking the county of Frontenac in Eastern Ontario, I find that the legislative grants in 1921 averaged \$315 for each public school and \$715 for each separate school, or on the basis of average daily attendance \$21.92 for each public school pupil and \$53.33 for each separate school pupil."

Cites County of Grey.

"In the township of Glenora, county of Grey, three Roman Catholic separate schools with an attendance of 39 pupils received over \$50 more in legislative grants than nine public schools in the same township with an attendance of 145, or \$13.79 for each public school pupil and \$54 for each separate school pupil."

"In Howe Island, the three separate schools received in the last two years, enough to pay the salaries of their teachers, and leave them a surplus of over \$1,251. Meanwhile the four or five Protestant families on that island, have no school to which they can send their children."

"In Howe Island the Protestants have been placed in this position, although they helped build the schools. They must either send their children to separate schools, where they must hear the Roman Catholic doctrine taught, in which they do not agree, or bring tutors into their families, or send them off to the island to friends on the mainland, or they do as thousands of English-speaking Protestants have been forced to do, they sell their farms and move to other parts of the country."

"This is something that must have been known to his lordship the bishop of London, because it is near his old home, yet it brought from him no protest whatever. The principal business of the ratepayers every annual meeting must be to declare dividends for themselves on the legislative grants to Howe Island. If the reverend bishop is actuated by a desire to remove inequalities and injustices I would respectfully suggest that he might very properly direct some of his fervid eloquence to the wrongs I have alluded to."

Fears Laws Are Elastic.

"The only argument put forward by the honorable minister of education is that there has been no change in the law respecting legislative grants. Well, if the laws and regulations have not changed, they have lately become wonderfully elastic along certain lines, and to show that this elasticity is not general I will refer you to the treatment of six Protestant separate schools on figures furnished me by the deputy minister of education."

The speaker then quoted figures showing a total of 404 in attendance at these schools with average of 314 in 1919, the grant averaging \$2.50 per pupil that year. In 1920 it averaged \$4.10, and one year later was increased to \$4.47.

"Compare that to the separate schools," said the doctor. "Compare it to the \$81 per pupil at Howe Island where there are no educational facilities for Protestant families."

AGED RESIDENT OF LONDON SUCCUMBS

Mrs. Catherine Morley, One of Earliest Pioneers, Passes Away Sunday.

SURVIVED BY CHILDREN

Spent Practically Entire 86 Years of Life in Interests of City.

One of London's oldest citizens, Mrs. Annie Catherine Morley, 354 St. James street, died at her home at an early hour Sunday. Mrs. Morley was born in London 86 years ago at the foot of Dundas street, where the sulphur baths now stand, and spent practically her whole life in London.

Her father, the late Edward Mathews, who came here from Warwickshire, England, in 1825, was an architect, but soon became a government contractor and built the old barracks, the present site of Victoria Park. Mr. Mathews built some of the first houses erected in London, and was one of the original stockholders in the Tecumseh Hotel.

Mrs. Morley was married to the late Samuel Morley, who predeceased her 22 years ago. Like her father, she lived a long and active life, and was perhaps the city's oldest native-born resident.

Mrs. Morley is survived by two daughters, Mrs. (Mrs. E. Arkell) and Miss Clara Morley, both of London, and six sons who will act as pallbearers at the funeral. They are Edward and Harold of London; Charles of St. Louis; William of New York, and George and Ernest of Chicago. One sister, Mrs. Hugh C. Baker of Hamilton also survives.

The funeral, which is of a private nature, will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock to Woodland Cemetery. The services at 2:30 o'clock will be conducted by Rev. A. L. G. Clarke of the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

These figures indeed manifest an injustice. I judge that his lordship the bishop of London has no complaints whatever to make.

"In 1841, the population of the two provinces of Canada were equally divided along religious lines. In view of this fact one province was overwhelmingly Roman Catholic and the other province was just as overwhelmingly Protestant. A view of this fact the statesmen looked with apprehension on union."

"They came together in an agreement that no government measure would be put through the united parliament without the approval of a majority from the province to which it applied. It was referred to in the records of that time as the 'double majority.' Now that agreement insofar as Lower Canada was concerned was religiously lived up to, but I want to show that insofar as Ontario was concerned it was not."

"Following the Baltimore conference in 1855 there were about 100 separate schools in this province. In 1859 the Senator Scott resolution was defeated, and again in 1861, and 1862 it met the same fate. Again in 1863 he presented his separate school bill which he called the 'final act' because it was supposed to be final, as far as separate schools were concerned. It carried in 1863, but I want to point out that three-fifths of the Ontario representation recorded a vote against it."

Ignored People's Will.

All Quebec and some Ontario members voted for it. Separate schools were forced upon the province against the will of the people, as expressed by the majority of the representation in Parliament. Dr. Ryerson obtained the assurance from Senator Scott that the Roman Catholic Church would accept this as the final settlement, and Vicar-General Chizeau of Quebec and Vicar-General Angus McDonald of Ontario accredited representatives of the Roman Catholic Church also gave this assurance, with authority to speak at that time.

"They as representatives of the church agreed to the act of 1863 as final settlement as far as Ontario is concerned. The bill was put through by the government, thereby giving the sanction of the government at the time as a final settlement."

Dr. Edwards quoted Hon. George Brown as stating at that time that the settlement was to be final. He also quoted Thomas D'Arcy Magee, noted statesman and a Roman Catholic at that time as saying: "I think they ought to be satisfied. I will be no party to re-opening the question."

Act Was Accepted.

"The act of 1863 on which Bishop Fallon bases many of his claims was 'not only by Senator Scott and Magee but by representatives of the church as final settlement of the vexed question of separate schools in Ontario."

"Notwithstanding that distinct agreement and understanding there have been since 1867 some forty amendments to the separate school act in the province of Ontario extending further privileges to separate schools of the province and apparently the end is not yet."

"Bishop Fallon says the Roman Catholics want only what was given by the separate school act of 1863 and the constitutional guarantees of 1867, 'nothing more and nothing less.' Is he prepared for the sake of peace to submit this act of 1863 to the best legal experts of the land and to the privy council if necessary and accept their decision and wipe every amendment passed since 1867 off the statute books?" (Applause.)

Urges Court Rulings.

"I will venture an assertion here that he will not agree. Taking his lordship's own words that he is not a lawyer qualified to speak and neither am I. He thinks one thing and I another. It seems to me that the logical course to have taken would be to have submitted it to the courts and let them determine if he is right in thinking he has a grievance. If they say he is right then the Legislature can remedy his grievance. It seems to me he is going at it backwards."

"I wonder at a man of the admitted intelligence of his lordship the bishop of London should think of carrying a case which he did not feel qualified to speak on to the U. F. O. government" (laughter and applause). "They are supposed to look very coldly on lawyers."

"Bishop Fallon says the Roman Catholics want only what was given by the separate school act of 1863, and the constitutional guarantees of 1867, 'nothing more and nothing less.'"

"Let us then take his lordship at his word, and proceed to determine the alleged rights. Where must we begin and end our search for the truth in this controversy? Mani-

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Act Was Accepted.

restly the alleged rights must be found within the four corners of the act of 1863, and in the constitutional guarantees of the act of 1867. Well, that is 55 years ago, and the alleged grievances have repeated all that time. Bishop Fallon cannot quote any section or clause of the acts of 1863 or 1867, nor can he refer to practice or usage to justify his claim."

Cites Separate Acts.

"At Confederation the statutes provided for two sets of schools, not by the same, but by separate acts. 'The act re separate schools' is 25 Victoria—1862; the act re grammar schools is chapter 63, and the act re common schools is chapter 64."

"The common schools of that date did not possess the same powers as the grammar schools. The trustees were different bodies, and the corporations were different."

"It was clearly set forth then, and has ever since been recognized, that Roman Catholics were exempt from paying taxes on common schools, but were liable for grammar schools. All persons between 5 and 21 years have the right to attend the common schools, but none may attend the high school without passing a qualifying examination."

Both the public and the separate school acts make it the duty of the board "to provide adequate accommodations and qualified teachers for all children between 5 and 21 years of age." The board, under the control of the board are separate schools.

Recognize Clear Line.

Moreover, a clear line of division between primary and secondary schools has always been and is still recognized by law and practice. The law places a penalty on the parent who does not send his child to primary school, but none in the case of the secondary school.

But I would give further proof that

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selection was rendered by Gordon Flanagan. Games were then indulged in until about 10:30, when partners were secured and supper partaken of.

After supper a vote of thanks was moved by the president of the visiting organization, which was seconded by their rector, Mr. J. Hale, who gave a short address on young people's work.

The evening was closed by three cheers being given by both sides. The entertainment was voted a complete success by all present.

Cites Complaints.

Dr. Edwards, referring to the complaint that Roman Catholic teachers are discriminated against in appointments to public school staffs in Ontario, declared that these teachers are crowded out of separate schools by brothers and nuns whose salaries go into the coffers of the church. Since the bishop designates public schools as Protestant schools why should the authorities or some not-demand Protestant teachers? he asked.

Regarding taxes of companies the speaker asserted that school taxes on these corporations are divided between separate and public schools at the desire expressed by the shareholders. As for public utilities such as street railways he declared that schools taxes from them should be assigned to public utilities in which category he included public schools.

In conclusion he referred to the fact that Protestant fathers in mixed marriages must pledge to send their offspring to separate school, and if "they gave the poor fellow a chance," there would be no grievance regarding disposition of his school taxes. He mentioned the fact that Bishop Fallon attended public school near Kingston for two years, while very young, yet become a man respected by all his flock.

ENTERTAIN TRINITY A.Y.P.A.

St. Luke's Broughdale, Provide Enjoyable Time for Allied Organization.

Trinity A. Y. P. A. was entertained by St. Luke's, Monday night, in the parish hall at Broughdale. The proceedings were opened with a short speech delivered by Rev. A. S. H. Cree, following which a violin

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