

EVENTS

Published Weekly.

Vol. 7, No. 12.

OTTAWA, MARCH 25, 1905.

Whole No. 313.

The Second Reading Debate.

ON Wednesday the 23rd inst. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Canadian House of Commons, moved the second reading of the Autonomy Bill, which he had introduced on Feb. 21. The clause over which an attempt was made to agitate the country relating to education, would be struck out in committee, the Premier announced, and a new one substituted. The new clause reads as follows:—

"Section 93 of the British North America Act 1867, shall apply to the said province, with the substitution for sub-section 1 of said section 93 of the following sub-section:

"1. Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to separate schools which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this act, under the terms of chapters 29 and 30 of the ordinances of the northwest territories passed in the year 1901.

"2 In the appropriation by the legislature or distribution by the government of the province of any moneys for the support of schools organized and carried on in accordance with said chapter 29 or any act passed in amendment thereof, or in substitution thereof there shall be no discrimination against schools of any class described in the said chapter 29.

"3 Where the expression 'by law' is employed in sub-section 3 of the said section 93, it shall be held to mean the law as set out in said chapters 29 and 30; and where the expression 'at the union' is employed in said sub-section 3 it shall be held to mean the date at which this act comes into force."

This carries out precisely the idea outlined in these columns on two different occasions, namely, that what would be satisfactory to the western members, including Mr. Sifton, would be a clause perpetuating the classes of schools now there and established by the ordinances of the Legislature of the Northwest Territories.

The situation is now made quite clear. The government declare that from the first their intention was simply to continue the schools established by the local authorities of the territories by virtue of Mr. Mackenzie's Act of 1875 by which a constitution was first given to the Northwest. As drafted the clause reverts to the original intention. It is understood to be acceptable to Mr. Sifton and to the other members from the West as well as to practically all the Liberals in the House. Both Mr.