

Acts of 1890? Schools of their own denomination, conducted according to their views, will receive no aid from the state. They must depend entirely for their support upon the contribution of the Roman Catholic community, while the taxes out of which state aid is granted to the schools provided for by the Statutes, fall alike on Catholics and Protestants. Moreover, while the Catholic inhabitants remain liable to local assessments for school purposes, the proceeds of that assessment are no longer destined to any extent for the support of Catholic schools, but afford the means of maintaining schools which they regard as no more suitable for the education of Catholic children than if they were distinctively Protestant in their character.

The hon. gentleman boasts of the settlement he has effected, and of the Bill which has been passed. Yet I ask him to state one single privilege, one single right, taken away from the Roman Catholics of Manitoba by the Bill of 1890 which they will enjoy under this Bill. I know of none. I have read the Bill carefully and I have been unable to find one single privilege that was taken away from them that has been restored by the Bill of which the hon. gentleman seems so proud, and which it seems almost a breach of the constitution to mention in the Speech from the Throne as a settlement. The minority did not ask for what is conceded, and declares that it will not accept it. There has been no petition sent in, no application made by the minority or by anybody representing them, even down to this very hour, that asks for one single thing that has been given by the Remedial Bill, as it is called, of Manitoba. Yet the hon. gentleman boasts of it as a very great achievement. I remember the hon. member for St. John and Iberville (Mr. Tarte), when he returned from Manitoba, where, I believe, he had a very conspicuous part in effecting this arrangement, boasted that even under the very shadow of the Palace at St. Boniface, this arrangement, which had been made by his Government would be ratified by the people. He did not expect that the Archbishop would concur, but he said that the French people whose interests were at stake, would be found to concur in it. Well, Sir, there has been an opportunity to test the correctness of that prophecy, and it certainly has not stood the test. You have the unanimous declaration of the electorate of St. Boniface in opposition to this measure. I give you my grounds for that statement. A gentleman was brought forward who stood on the platform of opposition for the legislature of Manitoba, and he was opposed by Mr. Bertrand, a gentleman brought forward by the Government of Manitoba, and supported with all the influence that Government could give him, in opposition to the gentleman so nominated. And, Sir, what happened? Why, not only was the person opposed to the Manitoba Government elected by a large majority, but, during the contest their own candidate

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came out and placarded the district with declarations that he had never been in favour of this settlement. I have only to add that not only was the hon. member for Iberville (Mr. Tarte) a little mistaken in assuming that it was going to be ratified by the people who were interested, but I have given the unanimous declaration that this settlement is entirely opposed to their wishes and feelings. But I wish to draw the attention of the First Minister, and of other hon. gentlemen in this House who have never sympathized with the claim of the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba, to a very important feature of this measure. While this Bill gives nothing that the Roman Catholic minority were deprived of, while this Bill gives nothing that was asked for by them, it does give them a number of things that were not asked for, and that are outside of anything that the Roman Catholics enjoyed in the province of Manitoba up to the time of the passage of the Act of 1890. I draw the attention of the House to the fact that just as the minority were able to go to the highest tribunal in the Empire and get the legislation of 1890 condemned, and obtain the declaration that it had taken away rights which belonged to the minority, so now the moment this Bill becomes law you are going to have a number of new and additional claims that were not enjoyed by the Roman Catholics previous to 1890; you are going to have those put upon the Statute-book of Manitoba; and as soon as that Bill becomes law the minority can go to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and claim that their rights have been extended to the extent, whatever it may be, of any privileges that may be conceded. The hon. gentleman smiles, because he thinks that one part of my argument somewhat antagonizes the other; but that is taking too superficial a view of the question. What the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba claimed was, that the rights they enjoyed under the law of 1890 were not restored to them, you have not given them anything that they claimed, you have not restored to them a single right that was taken away from them, according to the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. But you have created new and additional rights outside of those, so that they are in a position not only to reject any settlement, not only to fall back upon the claim given them under that judgment of the Privy Council as their right, but they are in a position to add to that these new things you have put on the Statute-book, under the Manitoba Act which says that any concession made by the local legislature to a minority can never be withdrawn. They are in a position to press for these in addition to all there was before.

Now, Sir, I have very little more to add upon this question. No person would rejoice more sincerely than myself if this question were settled once and for ever. No