

and that Parliament will be called to act, not under any power that may be conferred on them by the general Confederation Act but by the Manitoba Act, by the charter of the province itself. Surely it cannot be said that the federal government or the Parliament of Canada are invading any provincial rights when they are acting by virtue of the powers contained in the local charter and on a specific subject, and in default of the provincial authorities acting as provided by such local charter. That theory of provincial rights which is so largely propounded in this case, is not tenable and would drive us to the worst results if it were carried to its logical consequences. Let us consider the matter for a moment. A verdict has been rendered in this case by the Privy Council. That verdict is that the minority have rights, that the legislation of 1890 has caused them a serious grievance, that we have a right to complain, that we have done it in proper form, and that the grievance should be remedied. If we are right, then, hon. gentlemen, the others are wrong. There cannot be an escape from that proposition, and if they are wrong their rights are not invaded by the redress of their wrong. It should not be sought to take advantage of the theory of provincial rights to cover and maintain provincial wrongs. Everybody should feel that the only duty we have to perform is to loyally submit to the findings of the Privy Council and to the commands of Her Majesty, thereby restoring peace and harmony where they prevailed before, restoring a condition which should never have been altered. I say more, not only restoring peace but taking away one of the drawbacks from which our province, has suffered even materially. A good deal of discussion is going on at present about the depression of affairs, and the tariff is said by some to be one of the causes of that depression. I have nothing to say at present on that subject, but I will say this, that in Manitoba one of the principal causes of the slow progress that has been made is the agitation to which we have been subjected almost permanently for one cause or another. At a distance it seems as if we ever were almost on the eve of a civil war, and the consequence is that emigrants are deterred from coming into the province. For the sake of our welfare, for the sake of the rapid development of our immense territories, let us cool down, let us put together

our intellectual and physical forces and let us work up our national resources in a spirit of generosity and citizenship, in a spirit of charity, and like good Christians and true Canadians. I must also give some consideration to another part of the subject. I refer to the standard of our schools, although the hon. gentleman did not refer to the subject. I must enter here my strong protest against the allegation that our schools are inferior to the other schools. It is a very delicate subject to deal with. Comparisons are very often offensive. As a rule we abstain from any research into the schools of non-Catholics, because we consider it is not our province to criticise those schools and we are not concerned about them.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, if he will allow me, if any school that complies with the conditions of the law fails to get the grant both from the municipality and the government.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—You mean the present law?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Yes.

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—If my hon. friend will wait for a moment, I will come to that subject and I will explain all that. I was saying that at times, if we indulge in comparisons between the non-Catholic schools and ours, it is not with a view of finding fault, but to find whether ours could not be improved, because, whatever may be said to the contrary, it is our aim to have as good teachers and as good schools as possible. In any community there are drawbacks, and we have our share of them, we humbly admit; but that is no good reason for passing a general condemnation on everything that belongs to us. Whilst we are doing our best to advance in every situation of life, it appears that our opponents are doing all they can to discountenance our efforts. They have been making some inquiries as to the working of our schools, but they have been precluded by their prejudices from making those inquiries perfect, or to see things as they are. By force of circumstances, the majority of our schools are generally conducted in the French language, although the English language is also generally taught, which teaching, by the way, gives to our school a superiority over the others in that branch, and increases the