

Tupper upon that issue. His promises made so profusely to the people of this province still remain unperformed, and it yet remains for this Government and its leaders to give an honourable explanation of their failure to fulfil them.

Let me come to the immediate question with which I am to deal. The terms of Confederation were settled and determined after a long and exhaustive discussion and debate. The Act of Union, the British North America Act of 1867, was passed as the result of an agreement founded upon those deliberations. It constituted the four original provinces, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, into the Dominion of Canada. It provided also for the admission of British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland as well as for the acquisition of the territory out of which the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have been carved. It settled certain financial and other terms and conditions between the four original provinces and the Dominion of Canada as a whole. It provided that upon the admission or establishment of any new province such terms and conditions in respect thereto should be set forth by Order in Council of the Imperial Government, or by Act of the Parliament of Canada, under the provisions of the British North America Act, 1871.

But the British North America Act did more. It divided and distributed legislative powers between the Parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures. It allotted to the provincial legislatures powers touching matters of a local and provincial character, while certain other legislative powers of a wider and more general character were vested in the Dominion Parliament. Section 91 of the Act defined the powers of the Dominion Parliament and section 92 defined those of the provincial legislatures. The subject of education was not dealt with in either of these sections, but it was declared by section 93 that in each province the provincial legislature might exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject to the proviso that nothing in any such law should prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons might have by law in any province at the time of the Union.

Shortly after the acquisition of our immense western territory, two acts relating thereto were passed by the Dominion Parliament; one in 1875 and the other in 1877. The Act of