

this long document upon the House, for which I apologize again, I have done so because I felt it was right to lay before the House and the country an exact statement of the statutes regulating this question, together with the different Orders in Council and a history of the proceedings adopted by the Federal Government in their negotiations with the government of Manitoba. I have done this in order to dispel any impression that might still exist, in the minds of hon. gentlemen, that the Government of Canada meant to adopt drastic measures, which, in their nature, could have produced, on the part of the government of Manitoba a feeling of dissatisfaction, or that it meant to injure in any way the feelings of the majority of that province. That would have been a fatal mistake, Mr. Speaker, and I think the record will show, when it is examined, that the proceedings adopted by the Federal Government were such that any such impression, if it exists, must be dispelled. This question has been before the country for a very long time. It is impossible, in the face of the facts, to state that the Government of Canada have been hasty in the measures which they have adopted in relation to this very important question. It has been before the people of Canada one way or the other since 1890. I was under the impression that it was but fair that everything should be attempted to prevent the autonomy of the province of Manitoba being interfered with by the exercise of the federal authority of a jurisdiction which is undoubtedly committed to it by the British North America Act. My statement, I can guarantee, is absolutely correct, it having been taken from official records which have been consulted and copied in very many instances, as can easily be seen by the document itself, and which have enabled me to submit what I consider to be an absolutely reliable historical account of the legislation upon this question, and also the measures adopted by the Federal Government to deal with it in relation to the government of Manitoba. I will now take up another branch of the subject.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Speaker, before recess I stated that I desired to address myself to another branch of the subject. I wish to put upon record the utterances of some of those who took the most prominent part in building up this confederation, and my object in doing so is to show that at that period of the history of the country those men were striving to build up from provinces, separated from each other as they were, which constituted this northern half of the American continent, a confederation

vast in its extent, whose aspirations would be greater than could be the aspirations of the various colonies belonging to England, and enjoying absolute separate government. I wish to put upon record the utterances of men whose names have remained in the history of Canada a legacy to those who have followed them, and whose example I hope will be followed by those who now strive, as they strove, to increase the prosperity and power of Canada. One name, and the first on the list, is that of Hon. Mr. Holton. Although a very much younger man than Mr. Holton, I had the honour and privilege of counting him among my friends, and although we sat on different sides of the House, I have on more than one occasion, as a young man entering Parliament, enjoyed the advantage of his advice, and I say among those who helped to build up confederation no name is worthier of being remembered than that of Hon. Mr. Holton. Mr. Holton, as will be found in the debates of confederation, said at that time:

My object in doing that was to show what were the opinions of these men as to the rights of minorities, and also upon the educational question which at that period, as we know, was a most disturbing element.

Mr. Holton said:

It may not be appropriate by the House generally, especially by the members from Upper Canada, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Galt) knows well the importance of it.

Speaking on the question of education, he said:

And that the English Protestants of Lower Canada desire to know what is to be done in this matter of education before the final voice of the people of this country is pronounced upon the question of confederations.

Hon. John S. Macdonald said:

I want to know what they are going to do for the Catholic minority of Upper Canada.

Sir George Cartier, then Mr. Cartier, said:

A measure which would have for its effect to give strong central, or local government, which would at once secure and guard the person, the property, and the civil and religious rights, be longing to the population of each section.

Mr. Haultain, one of the strongest champions of the Protestant views of the period, said:

I heard decided objections to this scheme from certain sections of the Protestant minority of Lower Canada. They say it will place them at the mercy of the French-Canadians. I am compelled to say that there is no part of the scheme that I feel more doubt about than the effect it will have upon the educational and political interests of the Protestants of Lower Canada. I heard it said that it would affect in a fair and just manner the educational interests of the Protestant minority, but on the other hand I have heard gentlemen qualified say, although there has not been open hostility to the educational interests there has been a certain amount of obstruction.