

would be somewhat analogous to the population of Ontario, that there should be some provision in the constitution by which *they should have conferred upon them the same rights and privileges in regard to religious instruction as those possessed by the people of the province of Ontario. The principles of local self-government and the settling of the question of public instruction seemed to him ought to be the cardinal principles of the measure.*

When answering Mr. Blake, the Premier is reported as follows :—

As to the subject of public instruction, it did not in the first place attract his attention, but when he came to the subject of local taxation, he was reminded of it. Not having had time before to insert a clause on the subject, he proposed to do so when the Bill was in Committee. The clause provided that the Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the consent of his Council or Assembly, as the case might be, should pass all necessary Ordinances in respect of education, but it would be specially provided that the majority of the ratepayers might establish such schools and impose such necessary assessment as they might think fit; *and that the minority of the ratepayers, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, might establish separate schools;* and such ratepayers would be liable only to such educational assessments as they might impose upon themselves. This, he hoped, would meet the objection offered by the hon. member for South Bruce.

Mr. D. A. Smith, then member for Selkirk (the present Lord Strathcona), touched upon the subject in the following words :—

The point brought up by the hon. member for South Bruce (Mr. Blake) was an important one, and he was glad to find that the First Minister intended to introduce a provision in Committee dealing with the subject.

The following extract is given as showing the opinion of the late Hon. David Mills, who has always been regarded as a high authority on constitutional subjects:

There was another matter it seemed to him ought not to be disregarded; and that was the terms and conditions under which these people would ultimately be formed into a province. *It would be better that the people who settle that territory should know beforehand the terms and conditions under which they would become an organized part of the Dominion.* He saw no objection, when the population became sufficiently large, to allowing that territory to be represented in the Dominion Parliament before it was organized into a province.

The educational clause, as introduced in committee, section 11, reads as follows :—

*When, and so soon as any system of taxation shall be adopted in any district or portion of the North-west Territories, the Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the consent of the Council or Assembly, as the case may be, shall pass all necessary Ordinances in respect to education; but it shall therein be always provided, that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of the North-west Territories, or any lesser portion or sub-division thereof, by whatever name the same may be known, may establish such schools therein as they may think fit, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor; and further, that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish Separate Schools therein, and that, in such latter case, the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman*