

English tongue. He was sure that everybody would be glad if French could be taught also. It would be a useful accomplishment. But if any duty at all rested upon the State with regard to French-speaking children, surely in a country like this at least they should receive an English education. Mixed as were the Canadians in nationality, with the great body of the people speaking English, it was of great importance that the people should learn English. If they could learn French, too, they would praise God for it. But French was not abolished from the schools of the North West, for there was the provision of bilingual readers in the primary classes. It was remarkable that with the petitions from the trustees of almost every Roman Catholic school district against the ordinance of 1892, alleging many things against it, the complaint touching the French language was not referred to except in a letter of the Archbishop of St. Boniface in transmitting the papers. It was only at the very last moment that the complaint was inserted. Regarding religious instruction, the only difference brought about by the ordinance was that instead of an hour it was limited to half an hour. There was yet another branch of the subject of great importance, to which he desired to refer. The prayer of the petition, without a single exception, was in the alternative. That is, the petitioners asked that the ordinance be disallowed or the Legislature be commanded to amend it. He had already dealt with the question of disallowance, and as to the other or alternative request, he pointed out that it was not within the power of the Government to command the Legislature to repeal the ordinance. Nothing could be more certain than that their authority would have been spurned had they attempted to command. They did, therefore, do precisely what the petitioners asked, but in a way that should be more effective. They presented on behalf of his Excellency the earnest request that the Legislature reconsider the whole subject, and remedy, not merely any grievances that might exist, but any that might arise.

In making that representation, the Territories were aware that it was in compliance with the petitions that had been presented for redress. The Government was acting to the extent of their limited authority, and what right had any one to make aspersions against them by declaring that they were simply handing the minority over to enemies who had already shown themselves to be hostile? They were appealing to the Legislature of the Territories, as they would appeal to any Legislature, and they were fully conscious that in the exercise of its functions, the Legislature was under the watchful eye of Parliament, which had ample power to give redress if it were denied. Another question asked was why, when the Government referred the question of the validity of the Manitoba Act, did it not take the same course with reference to this ordinance? Well, in the first place, it was not yet too late to do so. In the second place, it was not asked by the petition, and he doubted if it would give anything like redress, for the contention had hardly been seriously made that the ordinance was ultra vires. To refer the question to the courts under these circumstances would have been to give a stone when bread was asked for. The case of Manitoba rested upon entirely different principles. In that case there were ample grounds for submitting the question to the tribunal. It had been said that on this subject there had been grave differences of opinion in the Cabinet, because the petition on the North-West ordinance was referred to a sub-committee, and because the Council took the question out of the hands of the sub-committee. This mistake arose from a singular misconception of the course of procedure in the Privy Council. Matters coming before that body were usually referred to the Minister at the head of the department for report, but in this case it was hardly a question of law, so it could not be referred to the Department of Justice. As there was not a Minister of Education or a Minister having charge of the revision of North-West legislation, the petitions were for convenience referred to a sub-committee of three.

That sub-committee made four reports, all of which were approved of. Those reports recommended that each batch of petitions be referred to the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West, with the request for the observations of the Executive thereon, and when those observations were received the whole matter was taken up by the Privy Council itself. It was then no longer a matter of routine, and in the limited time at the disposal of the Government the question had to be promptly considered. He would not have troubled the House with this explanation, because everyone knew that if there were any disagreement in the Cabinet the public would know it immediately. When the order-in-Council was passed, everybody who knew anything of procedure knew that it was passed unanimously. He granted that in the consideration of any question which might arise, unless it be one of mere routine, there were various shades of opinion in every body of men, whether political or commercial, but the course always followed with regard to matters coming before the Executive was simply this:—

That, if the difference was more matter of detail as to whether it should be done in this way or in that way, generally speaking, these opinions can be harmonized. But if the differences involved questions of principle and the members of the Council are irreconcilably divided, the public in a very few hours hears about it. This question stood precisely the same as all others. Of the fifty orders-in-Council which were contained in the papers he brought down to-day, every one of them was arrived at with unanimity. In closing, he desired to add that he had spoken under restraint and a strong desire to refrain from saying anything that would affect the future settlement of the question, or add to the difficulties which would have to be taken into account by the authorities of the Territories, who would have to deal with the subject presently. He believed the House would be disposed to agree with him that the Government had taken a wiser course, although it had created, he would admit, considerable irritation, than a more speedy and heroic method of dealing with the question. (Applause.)

Mr. Laurier spoke briefly in reply to the First Minister. He said:—"The question before the House at this moment does not in any way involve any censure or approval of the conduct of the Government in reference to the decision at which it arrived in regard to the Northwest school question. It is simply a motion for papers. The motion is simply that the Government shall bring down the petition of the Roman Catholic minority, and the orders in Council passed upon it by the Government. The debate has been a very large one, and it has to a large extent anticipated the debate which must take place later on when the papers have been brought down. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat has at length ventilated his course, with the aid of documents in his possession, but not in the possession of the House. The question today is simply this: 'The Roman Catholic minority complain that by the legislation of the Assembly, and of the Executive, they are deprived, in fact, of their Separate Schools, to which they are entitled under the law of the land. They assert that, though the name of Separate School has been kept, and that they, apparently, still have their schools, in reality they are deprived of them, and that their Separate Schools have been made Public Schools.' The answer, as I understand it, of the local Executive, or of Mr. Haultain, is that this complaint is not founded upon fact, and that the new regulations that have been made, in point of fact, do not abridge the Roman Catholic minority of any rights which they possess under the law, and to which they are entitled. The hon. gentleman (Sir John Thompson) has justified this contention of Mr. Haultain. This is simply a question as to where the truth is. On the one hand, you have the Roman Catholic minority contending that they are abridged of their rights, and this contention is supported by some of the most eminent men in the Territories, the Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Boniface, and also the Bishop of the Territories, Bishop Grandin. On the other hand, there is the contention of Mr. Haultain that the complaint is altogether unfounded in fact. There is one point on which I am disposed to agree with the hon. gentleman, and that is that there is no case whatever for reference of this question to the Supreme Court. This is a mere question of fact as to which everybody can pass his judgment when the papers have been brought before us. I agree that there was no case for a reference to the Supreme Court, but one of the reasons which the hon. gentleman gave, however, was not a good reason from his own record, from the fact that such a reference had not been asked, and that it would be giving the petitioners, who were asking bread, a stone. I would remind the hon. gentleman that he has somewhat altered his mind from last year on that point."

Sir John Thompson—We have no power to refer it.

Mr. Laurier—Last year the hon. gentleman had power to refer the question to the Supreme Court when the petitioners did not desire a reference to the Supreme Court. He gave them a stone on that occasion when they asked for bread. This year there is no occasion for a reference. I am glad also to know that this year the Government will not attempt to shield themselves from responsibility behind a decision of the Supreme Court, but that the executive of the Dominion will give a decision. I only wish that the hon. gentleman last year had done the same thing they have done now, that they had embraced the responsibility resting upon them in discharging the duty which they owed to those who were making application to them. I suspect very much that there is something which the hon. gentleman has not told us about. I cannot conceive how any other parties can ask for another decision. I do not contend that the question could not be referred to another court, but what I do not understand is that the parties who were averse to the reference to the Supreme Court should now go to the Privy Council. I always understood that what the Roman Catholics wanted was what they claimed under section 53 of the B.N.E., act. I do not think this is a subject that should be pushed any farther. I have only this remark to make to the hon. gentleman, and it

is that the longer this question is kept before the public the worse it will be for the same and good name of Canada. This is a question on which we should have immediate answer. It has been dragged from tribunal to tribunal, and it is going to be dragged to another tribunal. Passion is inflamed, and the time a decision is reached the difficulties will be greater than they are at present. By such a course such passions will be inflamed which it will not be in the power of anybody to counteract.

Mr. Devlin followed and spoke for the fifteen minutes which remained until 6 o'clock. Addressing himself to some of the arguments which Sir John Thompson had made he presented the claims of the minority to redress. He cited the opinions of Archbishop Tache and Bishop Grandin that the Separate Schools exist now only in name, against Sir John Thompson's statement that they have not been interfered with. He pointed out that the Prime Minister had not expressed one word of hope that the advice the Executive gave the North West Council would be favorably received. Mr. Devlin denied the charge which Mr. Davin made the other day that the agitation over the Separate Schools arose in the Province of Quebec. It had taken its rise in a speech made in 1887 by Mr. McCarthy, who was at the time the President of the Conservative Association of Ontario. In this connection he referred to Controller of Customs Wallace, whom he called the representative in the Government of that element Mr. McCarthy had appealed to by his speech of 1887, in which he had attacked the people of Quebec, and Sir John Thompson had acknowledged that element by his appointment to office of Mr. Wallace. He hoped when all papers in the North-West matter were produced the House would be able to reach a different conclusion to that at which the Premier had arrived.

The motion for papers was then carried.

Plus.

In the former days it took a dozen men to make a pin—that is, there were a dozen processes in its manufacture, each of which was performed separately and by a different hand. Now a single machine turns out a stream of pins at the rate of 200 a minute, all ready to be finished. The wire is prepared by drawing it from a large coil on a revolving drum through a hole the size of the pin wanted. The coil, wound on another drum, is then suspended at the end of a machine. The wire passes into the machine through a hole and a series of iron pegs which keeps it in place and straighten it. A pair of pliers, moving back and forth, pull it along and thrust the end through a hole in a small iron plate, on the farther side of which a little hammer beats a tattoo on the end of the wire and so forms the head of the pin. Next a knife descends and cuts off the pin to the proper length. The pin falls into a groove or slot through which the heads cannot pass, and is thus suspended so that the lower or point end is exposed to the action of a cylindrical file, which has both a revolving and a lateral motion. By the time the pin has passed this file it has a smooth, sharp point, and is a complete pin so far as shape is concerned. These processes are all performed with such rapidity that the pins fall in a constant stream from the end of the machine. They are next put in quantities into revolving barrels which are turned till the pins are scoured and cleaned. Next they are boiled in an acid in which a fine powder of tin has been, and they emerge from this bath white and shining with their new tin coat. They are then dried in sawdust, again shaken in barrels, and dusted. The machine which sticks the pins upon the paper on which they are sold is very ingenious and simple in its details, but too complicated for brief description. The machine crimps the paper and holds it while the pins are brought up in long rows, a whole row being struck at one push of a lever.

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Speech and Silence.

Strangely one-sided views are often taken of the merits of speech and of silence, according to which is the subject under consideration. It is popular to compare silence with gold, speech with silver, and silence appears to be the special admiration of voluble writers, and yet it would be no difficult matter to impeach silence and praise speech. Both are to be commended when discreetly used at the proper time and place; both may be grossly misused. The world's history records the lives of three or four great men of unquestioned ability and directness of purpose who were noted for their silence, but there have been many more silent men, unknown to fame, who were either knives or tools. Carlyle, who wasted a great many words and was in truth somewhat hysterical in his oracular utterances, had a great admiration for silence. He professed to regard it as "the eternal duty of man," and while he thought speech to be great, considered silence greater. He would have had statues erected to silence, and though he declared that all speech, even the commonest speech, had something of a song in it, yet he found the highest melody only in silence. Plutarch took a more rational and juster view of silence. He said that it was, at the proper season, wisdom and better than speech. The qualification, "at the proper season," makes all the difference between a merely sentimental and a rational view of the merits of silence. The loquacious man is generally a fool, and so also may be the silent man, the one talking because he has not wit enough to hold his tongue, the other holding his tongue because he has not wit enough to talk. There is, instead, a standard prescription for those who would be thought wise, and that is to keep silent; but in reality the world only esteems those who use both speech and silence wisely; who speak when they have something to say which is worth saying, but remain silent when they have no useful thought to utter. The silent men who have won fame have usually been men of action, whose deeds have spoken for them, as Von Moltke and Grant. Silence in other and lesser men is so far from being admirable that it is to be regarded with suspicion as indicating a want of intellect or a cold, calculating, secretive nature. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Men of impulses of noble aspirations, whose frankness prevents a concealment of thought, cannot remain silent when they have anything to say. But the secretive man, disposed to hypocrisy, soon learns to put a curb upon his tongue. He does not deserve and would not receive the plaudits of those who express the highest admiration for silence in the abstract. One does not need to cultivate silence, but rather control of speech, for in spite of the admiration expressed by various writers for the "eloquence of silence," it is at best an interval between speeches, and can have no quality or effect in relation to speech. It is, therefore, most desirable that men should consider well their speech, for then they will learn to use silence at its proper season when it is wisdom. The world is truly much abused by speech; but rightly used it is a mighty power to convey information, to guide, to persuade, to command. Without speech (which may be properly considered to include written language) the human race could never have advanced to its present high social state, and all the gold of silence could not compensate humanity for the loss. What does it matter that speech is abused; the idle words pass by us as mere vibrations of the air; but the helpful thoughts, coined in speech, remains with us to bless and cheer and uplift us. A century of silence could not make up for the loss of one hour of communion with the great thinkers of the world, whose speech lingers in memory or is preserved for us on the printed page.