

are prepared already to go for the abolition. Now what does the abolition of Separate Schools mean? Not an absolute abolition of Separate Schools. If anybody imagines that in case the laws now on the statute book were repealed to-morrow Separate Schools would thereby be abolished, they would deceive themselves. These schools would still continue, and nobody would suggest their being then interfered with. The change of the law would merely be the withdrawal of the right of Roman Catholics to pay their school tax to their Separate Schools. They would be assessed for the Public Schools to which they did not send their children, as well as pay for the support of the Separate Schools to which they did send them. In this way Roman Catholics would practically be doubly taxed.

Now, how does the case stand under the B. N. A. Act, with reference to the abolition of Separate Schools in this sense, or in any sense in which their abolition is contemplated? It is a well understood fact, which nobody disputes, that the Provincial Legislature has no power to abolish them. If a Provincial Legislature should pass an Act for their abolition, it would be disallowed at Ottawa as being

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It would be invalid even if not so disallowed. The Dominion Parliament itself has no power under the Constitution to abolish Separate Schools. These are facts. There is no room for argument to the contrary. The consequence is, that the abolition of Separate Schools can only be accomplished by the Imperial Parliament; and it is perfectly certain that the Imperial Parliament will not abolish them on any representation now made. This may be certain to any man acquainted with politics and with the history of these schools in Ontario, that there is not the slightest chance of inducing the Imperial Parliament in our time to repeal those provisions in the B. N. A. Act which guaranteed these schools.

Consider what would take place if the Legislature or people of Ontario should ask the Imperial Parliament to repeal those provisions. The great Province of Quebec would oppose the repeal, and the Roman Catholic population of all the other provinces would oppose it. The Roman Catholic population of Canada at the last census amounted to nearly two millions and the Protestant population to something over two millions and a half. The Roman Catholic population of Great Britain and Ireland would also oppose the repeal. British statesmen would know or learn how it