

SPEECH

Delivered by

R. L. BORDEN, M. P.

AT QUEBEC ON THE 29th AUGUST, 1907.

It is fitting on this my first appearance before you since the session of 1905, that I should deal with the attacks which have been made upon me, especially in this province, with respect to my attitude upon the Bills establishing the two new provinces in the West. These attacks have been largely based upon misrepresentation, which up to the present we have not had sufficient opportunity of exposing to the people of this fair province.

I come from a province in which such questions have been approached and settled in a broad and generous spirit; and in that spirit I have endeavoured to approach this question.

The Manitoba School Question had its day. A Conservative Administration, firm in its determination to adhere to the principles of the constitution, was defeated by unworthy appeals and by the promise of the present Prime Minister of Canada that if he came to power the rights of the minority in Manitoba would be maintained and upheld. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has received full credit from his political colleagues for all that he then accomplished. Mr. Sifton speaking in the House of Commons on the 24th March, 1905, respecting the attempt of the Conservative Government in 1896 to do justice to the minority and to carry out the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, declared that "they (the Conservatives) failed in that attempt; and why did they fail? They failed because the Rt. Hon. gentleman who leads this Government stood in their way. That is the reason why they failed." Eleven years have passed since Sir Wilfrid Laurier defeated Sir Charles