ANITOBA SCHOOLS

Interesting Chapter Quoted From the Early History of the Province.

the Separate School System Was Foisted on the People in 1871.

following letter has been address- the editor of the Toronto Globe:

Sir: The speech delivered by Sir ald Smith during the debate on the delial bill is interesting, not only be- e he speaks from the past, and one took a prominent part in settling difficulties of 1869-70, but for other sons as well. His frank admission the people of the country at no specifically asked for separate denominational schools is well worth , particularly by those who sought ttach much importance to Rev. r Ritchot's alleged bill of rights

reason assigned by Sir Donald his silence on the part of the peo- Red River with regard to denom- hnal schools is also interesting, but because I believe that his state- s in this connection have no foun- n in fact, that I desire to call at- on to them.

mmenting on the proceedings of Convention of Forty, he says: "Now very little indeed was said here the convention) about schools, the unquestionably had them in minds, and thought they would the privilege of having their ols as before. This is apparent, I , from what took place in the legis- e of Manitoba in 1871, when I the school law was passed. It not be known to a great many mbers here that many of those who posed the legislature at that time, e members of this very convention. in deciding that there should be schools, they were looking to what passed in this convention, with it in their minds."

By way of emphasizing his remarks, Donald pointed out that he had been member of the first legislature of nitoba, the inference from which ld be that he was well informed on matters which were under discus- . But he further stated that twen- ve years ago he had taken his "seat the first member of the new county Manitoba." Let me add, he took his in the house of commons very soon the opening of the first legislature the new province of Manitoba, and s not present in the provincial legis- re when any of the measures relat- to education were under discussion. is will, no doubt, account for his ar- ment that because the members of first legislature of Manitoba passed denominational schools act of 1871 were enacting what was in the he people throughout the ses- Convention of Forty.

uld be further from the first educational bill of introduced by Mr. John mber for Kildonan in legislature. Mr. Suther- a member of the opposi- ntroduced and read a first on April 4, 1871, and ordered to be d a second time on a future day. If members of the legislature were t from the Convention of Forty in session of 1871 they were particu- r fresh from the convention at the ning of the session. Yet Mr. utherland's bill contained no provision tever with regard to separate or de- minational schools.

After the introduction of Mr. Suth- land's bill, the late Honorable H. J. ks, then attorney-general and lead- of the government, expressed his asure owing to the introduction of bill and stated that the government uld be pleased to receive suggestions m members with regard to the edu- nal requirements of the province. Thereafter a number of members of legislature held a number of meet- s for the purpose of drafting an ed- ational bill that would meet the ews of the members of the legislature th the result that on April 27, 1871. e late Hon. John Norquay introduced s bill entitled, "A bill relating to com- n schools in this province." This ll was read a first time on 27th April, 71, and referred to the committee on ucation. Mr. Norquay, like Mr. Suth- land, was a member of the opposition. e legislature had then been in ses- n since March 15, or about six weeks, that if anything were in the minds the members from the Convention of rty, sufficient time had elapsed for it make its appearance in the legisla- e. Yet Mr. Norquay's bill contained allusion whatever to separate or minational schools.

It was not until about the 29th of il, 1871,—three or four days before expiration of the session of 1871— any mention was made of the bill d afterwards became the act of . As Mr. Hay, leader of the op- sition at that time, states in the sub- ed affidavit, the third bill was intro- ed on or about Saturday, the 29th of April, 1871. He adds, "the bill introduced was blank, and contained information but its title, which was follows: 'A bill to establish a system education in the province.'" He then s: "On the evening of that day I was led to Government House to meet tenant-Governor Archibald, when learned for the first time the nature the bill, and found that it was in- ded to provide in it for a system of minational schools. I was there- n offered a position in the govern- nt conditional upon my offering no osition to the government ucational bill. I refused this er point blank and declared r intention to oppose the bill, which afterwards did to the best of my ility."

The session came to an end of May 1871, the government bill did not me up for a second reading until y 1, just at the very close of the sion.

Mr. Hay continues: "The visions of the bill were not explained ny length to the legislative assem- and it was passed through committ- and all its readings during that af- on. No time was allowed to the ture to ascertain the nature of bill or to give it any consideration. On the third reading, supported by the late Hon. John Norquay, Mr. John Sutherland and Mr. Edwin Burke, I moved to have the bill sent back to the committee for further consideration and amendment without success. Next day, May 2, 1871, the bill was pushed through its readings in the legislative council and as appears by the journals before referred to, was assented to by the lieutenant-governor on the day following. Mr. John Sutherland's declaration, which I append along with that of Mr. Hay, confirms Mr. Hay's statements in every material respect.

What is the deduction? Is it that members of the legislature, fresh from the Convention of Forty, ought to legislate separate schools into existence? On the contrary, the two bills first introduced provided for national schools, and the separate school bill was never thought of till the last hours of the session, when it was introduced in blank, when it went to its second reading with little or no explanation, was supported with promises of office, and forced through both the legislature and legislative council in two days, and those the last days of the session. Surely if anything is made evident by this, it is that the bill did not emanate from the legislature, and that if anything is to be inferred from the whole proceeding it is that sectarian or denominational education never entered the minds of the Convention of Forty. Sir Donald has abandoned the express promise of separate schools and the implied promise will have to go with it so far as the argument from the legislation of 1871 is concerned.

It is not difficult to discover the real origin of the act of 1871. In that session the act to incorporate the Archbishop of St. Boniface was introduced, also the act to establish St. Boniface College. It is notorious that the third bill, which afterwards became the act of 1871, came from Lieutenant-Foverno- or Archibald, and was forced upon the government and the legislature by him. Who was behind Lieutenant-Governor Archibald? In accounting for Rev. Father Richot's fourth bill of rights, the late Archbishop Tache, in a letter to Mr. Taylor in the Winnipeg Free Press on January 13, 1890, said: "I will now give you some reasons to believe that my bill was the one taken to Ottawa. I saw myself the document handed over to Rev. Father Richot and Judge Black by the officials of the provisional (Riel's) government. I had heard some of the objections made by them to certain articles in the first essay, and I saw some modifications in my presence by the said officials." As is now notorious, this fourth bill of rights differed from its predecessors chiefly in the demand for separate schools. Would not Sir Donald be much nearer the mark if he were to trace the act of 1871 like the alleged fourth bill of rights, not to the people of the Red River settlement, but to Archbishop Tache, then recently returned from Rome? I submit that the history of what really occurred will vindicate this interpretation of some of the events of 1869-70-71. I also beg leave to append two statutory declarations of this point, one from E. H. G. G. Hay, leader of the opposition in the legislature in 1871, and from Mr. John Sutherland, of Kildonan, also a member of the first legislature of Manitoba. I am, yours truly,

F. C. WADE.

Winnipeg, April 8.

Manitoba, City of Winnipeg. To wit:

In the matter of the Manitoba Educational Act, 1871, and the speech of Sir Donald A. Smith in the house of commons during its present session on the proposed remedial bill:

I, Edward H. G. G. Hay, of the town of Portage la Prairie, in the above province, police magistrate, do solemnly declare that:

1. I have read the speech of Sir Donald A. Smith on the remedial bill as reported in the Manitoba Free Press of the 25th instant, in the course of which the following passage occurs: "While very little was said here" (at the Convention of Forty) about schools, the people unquestionably had them in their minds, and thought they would enjoy the privilege of having their schools as before. This is apparent, I think, from what took place in the legislature of Manitoba in 1871, when, I think, the school law was passed. It may be known to a great many of the members here that many of those who composed the legislature of Manitoba at that time were members of that very convention, and in deciding that there should be those schools they were looking to what had passed in their convention fresh in their minds.

2. I was a member of the legislature of Manitoba during the session when the educational act of 1871 referred to was passed, and was leader of the opposition to the government at that time.

3. The educational bill which was finally enacted during the session of 1871 was not the first educational bill introduced during that session.

4. The first bill to provide for education in the province was introduced by Mr. John Sutherland, member of the opposition, on the 4th of April, 1871. It was read a first time that day and ordered to be read a second time on a further day, as appears from the journals of the legislative assembly. It contained no provision whatever with reference to sectarian or denominational schools.

5. After the introduction of Mr. Sutherland's bill, the late Hon. H. J. Clarke, then attorney-general and leader of the government, expressed his pleasure owing to the introduction of the bill and stated that the government would be pleased to receive suggestions from the members with regard to the educational requirements of the province.

6. Thereafter a number of the members of the legislature held numerous meetings for the purpose of drafting a comprehensive educational bill that would meet the requirements of the province. The result of their deliberations was the late Hon. John Norquay's bill of April 27, 1871, entitled "A bill relating to common schools in this province." This bill was read a first time on the 27th day of April, 1871, and referred to the committee on education. Mr. Norquay was then a member of the opposition. This bill, like that introduced by Mr. Sutherland, contained no reference whatever to secular or denominational schools. It provided for one system of education and contained no suggestion of a dual system of education. The late Hon. H. J. Clarke, leader of the government, assisted in the preparation of this bill, and it was understood by the members of the committee that it would be adopted by the government and the legislature.

7. Although the legislature had then been in session from March 15 to April 27, 1871, no suggestion whatever had been made by anyone with reference to separate or denominational schools.

8. A third educational bill was introduced by the Hon. Marc A. Girard for the government on or about Saturday, the 29th day of April, 1871. The bill as introduced was blank, and contained no information but its title, which was as follows: "A bill to establish a system of education in this province."

9. On the evening of that day I was invited to Government House to meet Lieut.-Governor Archibald, when I learned for the first time the nature of the bill, and found that it was intended to provide in it for a system of denominational schools. I was thereupon offered a position in the government conditioned upon my offering no opposition to the government educational bill. I refused this offer point blank, and declared my intention to oppose the bill, which I afterwards did to the best of my ability.

10 The session came to a close on May 3, 1871. The government educational bill did not come up for a second reading until May 1, just at the close of the session. To the best of my recollection there was only a single copy of the bill before the legislature, and that was in writing. The provisions of the bill were not explained at any length to the legislative assembly, and it was passed through committee and all its readings during that afternoon. No time was allowed to the legislature to ascertain the nature of the bill, or to give it any consideration. On the third reading, supported by the late Hon. John Norquay, Mr. John Sutherland and Mr. Edwin Burke, I moved to have the bill sent back to committee for further consideration and amendment, but without success. Next day, May 2, 1871, the bill was pushed through all its readings in the legislative council, and, as appears by the journals before referred to, was assented to by the lieutenant-governor on the afternoon of the day following.

11. Although Sir Donald A. Smith was a member of the legislature at that time, he was present only a few days during the commencement of the session, and was not present when any of the educational bills were up for consideration, and I make this solemn declaration believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sd.) E. H. G. G. HAY.

Declared before me in Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, this 27th day of March, A. D. 1896.

(Sd.) F. C. WADE,
A commissioner in B. R., etc.

Manitoba, City of Winnipeg. To wit:

In the matter of the Manitoba Educational Act, 1871, and the speech of Sir Donald A. Smith, in the House of Commons, during the present session on the proposed remedial bill.

I, John Sutherland, of the Parish of Kildonan, in the Province of Manitoba, do solemnly declare that:

1. I have read the statutory declaration of Edward H. G. G. Hay, of the town of Portage la Prairie, in the above province, police magistrate, with regard to the matters above referred to, which declaration is dated the 27th day of March, 1896.

2. I was a member of the legislative assembly of this province during the session of 1871, when the educational act was passed, and I was a member of the opposition in said legislature.

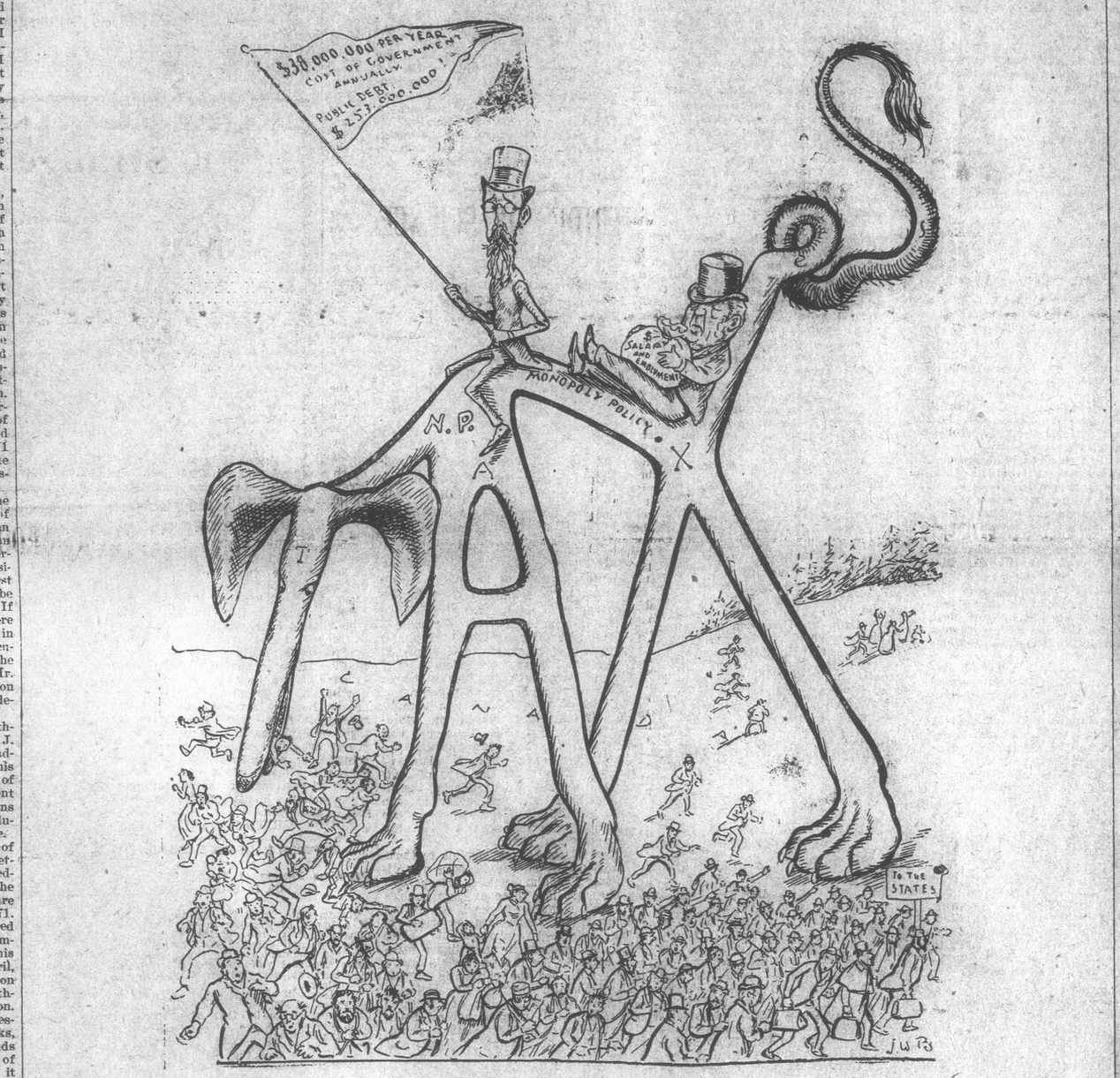
3. I have read particularly paragraphs numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 of said declaration, and hereby declare that the same are true in substance and in fact. I also agree with Mr. Hay in stating that the provisions of the government bill which was subsequently made law were not explained at any length to the legislative assembly, and with the portion of paragraph ten of his declaration following that statement.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canadian Evidence Act.

(Sd.) JOHN SUTHERLAND.

Declared before me at the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, this 27th day of March, 1896.

(Sd.) F. C. WADE,
A Commissioner in B. R.



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INDEPENDENCE OF AUSTRIA.

Dr. Lueger, a Newly Elected Burgomaster, Believes In It.

Vienna, April 18.—Dr. Lueger, anti-semite leader in the reichsrath, was again elected burgomaster of Vienna today by a vote of 98 to 42. The minority, Liberals, voted for Dr. Greubb. Crowds outside the town hall greeted the figures with cheers and Dr. Lueger made a speech, during the course of which he inveighed against Hungary and declared that his election was an indication of Christian liberty and the independence of Austria. Dr. Lueger has been repeatedly elected burgomaster and as frequently rejected by the Emperor. On December 2nd last, a riot followed an anti-semite meeting held in Prater, in order to protest against the rejection of Dr. Lueger.

NORTH SAANICH.

YOUNG BEN III.

YOUNG BEN III. will stand at his own stable, North Saanich, for mares for the season 1896, as follows: To insure, $12; for season, $9; single service, $6.

A. MENAUGH,

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