

band of French Canadian Conservatives who sit opposite me. have held caucus since clause 16 has been adopted, and seeing that there was no chance for them to agitate the province of Quebec on religious grounds, have decided to advertise for a grievance on racial grounds.

Mr. BERGERON. Would my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) pardon an interruption. Does he pretend to say that the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Lavergne) were at that caucus.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I am speaking of the French Canadian Conservatives, and I did not mention these two hon. gentlemen. Now, Sir, the hon. member (Mr. Monk) who at this very late date has advertised this grievance has not informed the House whether he holds a brief from any of the French Canadians in the Northwest to represent them on the floor of this House. May I ask the hon. gentleman, if before bringing this vexed question before the country he received one solitary petition from the French Canadians who live in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SPROULE. If that argument is sound would it not apply with equal force to the education clause against which there were floods of petitions.

Mr. LEMIEUX. We are not dealing with the school question.

Mr. SPROULE. If your argument is sound it ought to apply in one case as well as in the other.

Mr. LEMIEUX. We are not dealing with the school question; that question has been solved, happily for the country, by the vote taken last night. I am referring to the dual language and I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), who seems to have clung to this grievance in view of future elections in the province of Quebec, if he has received one solitary petition from any of the French speaking electors in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. MONK. If I get the Solicitor General one petition will he vote for my amendment?

Mr. LEMIEUX. That is not the question.

Mr. MONK. I assure my hon. friend that I can get a great many petitions of that kind.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend is evading the issue. I asked if he had received one petition from the Northwest Territories.

Mr. MONK. I have received no petition, but I can tell my hon. friend that I have been told by a great many people who have no political axe to grind that it would be a

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disgrace to us in the province of Quebec if this question were not at least raised in this parliament.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The explanation given by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) is perfectly clear. He wants to agitate; he is anxious to get some French Canadian votes in the province of Quebec, to embarrass the government and to create trouble. That is the whole question. The hon. gentleman began his remarks by asserting that there was a treaty made between the citizens of the Northwest Territories and the Dominion government, and inferentially with the imperial authorities, that the French language would be guaranteed to the French Canadian minority. He read from Mr. Ewart's book on the Manitoba school question what purported to be the Bill of Rights of the citizens of the Northwest Territories. My hon. friend read a long recital of the articles contained in that famous Bill of Rights. I have here, Sir, the sessional papers published in 1870, and I see in them the list of rights which was submitted, together with a letter, signed by John Bruce and Louis Riel, to Mr. Macdougall, who had been sent as the first lieutenant governor of the Red River settlement. The first of these was:

That the people have the right to elect their own legislature. That the legislature have the power to pass all laws locally in the Territories over the veto of the executive by a two-thirds vote.

And finally, the tenth:

That the English and French languages be common in the legislature and courts, and that all public documents and Acts of the legislature be published in both languages.

And the list of rights adds:

All the above articles have been severally discussed and adopted by the French and English representatives, without a dissenting voice, as the conditions upon which the people of Rupert's Land enter into confederation.

I claim that the Northwest Territories were not concerned with that list of rights, but only the Red River settlement. Mr. Riel and Mr. Bruce were speaking on behalf of the inhabitants. Therefore, the so-called guarantee of the imperial government and of the Dominion government applies only to the French Canadians and French half-breeds who resided on the shores of the Red river. I may mention that after this list of rights had been submitted to Mr. Macdougall, pourparlers took place between the Dominion government, Sir John Macdonald was then premier, and delegates were sent here, not from the Northwest Territories, but from the Red River settlement; and immediately thereafter the Act creating the province of Manitoba, and containing in so many words about the same guarantees as had been asked in the list of rights, was passed by this parliament and ratified by