

at their head, were struggling to secure the Separate Schools, and according to Dr. J. G. Hodgins in his "Legislation and History of Separate Schools in Upper Canada—1841-1876" his chief, Rev. Dr. Ryerson the then Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, was greatly disappointed and incensed because the Catholic minority did not accept these few concessional crumbs as a final settlement of the Separate School question in Ontario.

By the way, Sir John Willison states further in his "Reminiscences" that "Sir A. T. Galt was distrustful too of the Quebec Legislature as regards safeguarding the educational rights of the Protestant minority."

Well, let us see what grounds there were for this apprehension. Hon. John Rose, representing Montreal Centre, speaking in the Legislative Assembly in 1865 when the question of the educational rights of the minorities was being discussed, said: "Now we, the English Protestant minority of Lower Canada, cannot forget that whatever right of separate education we have was accorded to us in the most unrestricted way before the union of the Provinces, when we were in a minority and entirely in the hands of the French population. We cannot forget that in no way was there any attempt to prevent us educating our children in the manner we saw fit and deemed best; and I would be untrue to what is just if I forgot to state that the distribution of State funds for educational purposes was made in such a way as to cause no

complaint on the part of the minority."

Hon. Mr. Rose is a witness to the educational justice meted out to the minority in Quebec in 1865—let me cite as a witness to the educational justice meted out to-day to the minority in Quebec the words of Mr. J. C. Sutherland, an Ontario man, now Inspector-General of the Protestant Schools of Quebec. It was at the meeting of the Dominion Educational Association held at Ottawa, February, 1917, that Mr. Sutherland when speaking of the School System of Quebec said: "There has never been a particle of friction between the Catholic majority and the Protestant minority in the Education Department of Quebec since Confederation or before that date. . . . We, the Protestant minority, have wonderful freedom and whatever is needed is given. We never have any trouble. . . . We have a complete system of reporting for the census and also for the school attendance."

I regret that Sir John Willison, a trained journalist and publicist, has fallen into the error into which he has in dealing incidentally with the "Dissentient Schools of Quebec", Sir John writes always in a most judicial tone characteristic of an old-time journalist, but no apparent moderation in tone can make up for the absence of facts.

One who has at heart the peace and progress of our country will agree with me, too, that the bridge that spans the widening chasm between the two chief races of Canada should be supported by piers of solid truth.

