

tory brought it to a standstill. The remedial order, looked upon by some as a small matter, is going to decide whether our Northwest is to be free from the strife that has afflicted the provinces by the St Lawrence or to be subject to it. Force upon the Northwest separate schools, and the point of the wedge is entered which will involve the West in the troubles and difficulties that perplex Quebec. The granting of separate schools concedes the principle that those to whom they are granted are entitled to special legislation apart from their fellow-subjects, and that dangerous principle once conceded, it logically requires that the legislature also provide for them, separate institutions for deaf mutes, for the blind, the poor, the sick, the insane, for dealing with the criminal class, all to be controlled not by the State, but by the hierarchy—the State merely providing the funds. Is the pall that stifles enterprise and progress in Quebec, to be thrown over the free soil of our Canadian West? Is there to be in that virgin country two sets of laws and two measures of dealing with its people? Are the legislatures of Manitoba and the Northwest to be ordered imperatively by the Dominion to provide exclusive privileges for a chosen caste, who will not sit at the national table and eat out of the common dish but demand separate dish and table? That is the issue before the Dominion, and there is not a Protestant in Quebec, outside the circle of politicians and place-hunters, who does not sincerely hope that the Dominion's great heritage west of the lakes may be spared the troubles and drawbacks that afflict this province.

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