

which ought to be employed was being exercised in a way that was extending it beyond what it ought to be. It was restricted to a certain time.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: My honourable friend said that the legislature was supreme.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: One hour of the day instead of six or eight; that was the only restriction.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: I am very glad to have gained that point, then. My honourable friend said that this question is before the courts. It is not before the courts at all; it is before Parliament; but the question is brought up before the courts by the refusal of the Bank of Ottawa to pay the money which the court in England ordered it to pay. I admit that the question of education is exclusively within the competence of the provincial legislatures, but only within the provisions of the Act; if a legislature goes beyond those provisions it is no longer supreme. Legislatures must not interfere with the rights of the minority. They have a perfect right to do as they please as to regulations, provided they do not interfere with the rights of the minority; but if they interfere with those rights they are not supreme. It is for that reason that we are asking that this law be disallowed because the Privy Council has decided that the nomination of the new commission by the Government of Ontario was an interference with the right of the minority, because the Act of 1863 declared that the minority had the right to choose their own trustees.

I thank you, honourable gentlemen, for your kind attention, and I hope that this agitation will be a fruitful one, and that it will bind together people who before had not the same conception of regulation 17 and of the laws passed by the Ontario Legislature. Let us join our hands, the two parties who are dissenting to-day, and find a way of bringing peace and harmony to this country. I hope that this agitation of to-day will be blessed by all people, by the French Canadians of the province of Ontario, who are willing to learn English but want to keep their French, and by the population of the other provinces, who feel annoyed to-day because they cannot understand French. Let them come into the province of Quebec, and we will give them all the French teachers they want, to induce them to learn the French language.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: My honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Landry)

placed upon the motion paper the following inquiries:

(a) Is the Government aware that under the provisions of the British North America Act, they have the absolute and indisputable power to disallow any Act passed by a Provincial Legislature?

(b) Does the Government intend to accede to the request which was addressed to them to exercise this power, and will they, without further delay, disallow both chapters 59 and 60 of the statutes of the last session of the Legislature of Ontario, which are manifestly unjust, iniquitous and unconstitutional, and the existence of which, if it is prolonged by the non-intervention of the central power, constitutes an outrageous defiance of the judgment of the Privy Council, and an immediate and continual menace to the general peace and interests of the country?

(c) In the event of, by their refusal to exercise their right and their duty to intervene, the Federal Power assuming the grave responsibility of contributing to this nearing, and inevitable receivership which would close the schools of the Catholic minority, and throw on the streets the ten thousand children who attend the same, what other solution to the embarrassing problem could they offer to preserve to this minority the advantages which it has a right to claim in virtue of the final judgment of the highest tribunal of the British Empire?

The answers of the Government are:

(a) The British North America Act speaks for itself.

(b) The Government is not at liberty to say what advice will be tendered to His Excellency in due time.

(c) Answered by a and b.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: Do I understand that the Government are not at liberty, or that they cannot take the liberty?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: As to the advice to His Excellency, or as to the action that would be taken on the legislation in question. Of course, the Government is not giving publicity as to what that advice will be.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock.

THE SENATE.

Saturday, September 15, 1917.

First Sitting.

The Senate met at Eleven o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE INSURANCE BILL.

THIRD READING.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON presented the report of the Standing Committee on Bank-