THE ADVANCE.

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DUTTON, ONT., JANUARY 2, 1896.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUES : ION. A Former Resident of Dutton Discusses the Subject

The St. Thomas Weekly Times in its issue of December 5th, referring to the existing trouble between our Provincial authorities and the Dominion Govern-ment says: "It is sometimes alleged that all the judgment of the Privy Council amounted to was to decide that Council on behalf of the dissatisfied minority of Manitoba. This is surely a partial and inadequate view of the case. The Privy Council not only decided that there was a right of appeal, but there was an existing grievance which the Manitoba Legislature was called on through the Dominiou Government When the matter was being laid before

the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Lerd Watson said : I apprehend that the appeal to the Governor's discretion. It is a political administrative appeal, and not a indicial appeal in any proper sense of the term; and in the same way after he has decided, the same way after he has decided, the same latitude of discretion is given to the Dominion Parliament. They may legislate or not as they see it." Mr. Ewart, counsel for the Catholics, as-sented to this. This shows clearly that the Dominion Government is not-fettered by the decision of the Privy. Council in the late appeal; that it is acting in a political caucity only. Council in the late appeal; that it is acting in a political capacity only; and it is purely discretionary with it to remedy or not to remedy any grievances which might be found to have been caused by the Act of 1890. The judg-ment of the Privy Council decided noth-ing more than that the appeal would he.

What are the existing grievances referred to by the Times? The main one has been the "conscience plea." They say we have made the schools Protestant. Let any one honestly ex-amine our system of religious exercises and the regulations governing the system, and they must at once ad-mit that our Catholic fellow-citizens can find no cause for complaint. The law does not compet the holding of such exercises; that is at the discretion of the trustees. The adherents of any other creed can hold the same objection. Who constitute the minority so often referred to? I will tell you. A small coterie of church diguitaries and few professional politicians form the whole body. That fact is patent to any one at all familiar with the problem. The Roman Catholic priests are not the only ones who are clamoring for full control over the education of the children of their laith. The Episcopalians are close at their heels. Why this narrow-minded policy? Which is the more important : That we should be educated as one people, having a common aim and a common interest, or that we should be bred as spys upon creeds opposed to our own? It is the prerog-ative of the state to determine all matters affecting the welfare of the state as a whole. The state must be preserved, and individual desires must

be preserved to the common good. How do I know that the minority is constituted as stated above? It is the result of actual experience. I am a dadghter, Lottie, to Mr. Enshe, of Fargo teacher and at present in a district where the Catholics are as numerous as the Protestants. They are of the class over which the priests are supposed to have most control, and a priest is stationed here. Yet the Catholic children are more regular in their attendance than the Protestant children. We have uo religions exercises ; instead. I read fairy tales or some well written story for fifteen minutes before closing. A number of teachers whom I know have the same experience. The fact, too, that the French schools are be ginning largely to adopt the new system proves that they are satisfied. They have no desire to return to the old system with all its illiteracy. Had the Catholics ever a right to Separate schools? At the time Mantoba entered Confederation there were three documents drawn up, but none of them mentioned Separate schools. In 1889 Archibishop Tache published in the Winnipeg Free Press a Bill of Rights which contains a clause re Separate schools. The contention is that this was the Bill sent to the Dominion Parliament in 1870. Evidence points strongly to the fact that this bill is sparious. Though I approve of the policy of the present government in most things, I cannot but feel that they are reprehensible. We must keep this Dominion a compact and harmovions whole. The Catholics of Manitoba are content. Let well alone. No doubt most readers have seen a resume of the novel, "Pour le Patrie," and are aware of the report afloat that the Quebec Government has ordered 500 copies of it for distribution as prizes among the Catholics of that Province, and that these copies are to be paid for from the Government funds. The Wit-ness says referring to this: "The book is a libel ou Roman Catholics and Protestants, alike calculated to perpetaate

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religions discord and to inspire the im-mature minds of our children with dis-trust and harred of their fellow.coun-trymen. It is a libel on the Masonic order, a society composed of houest men and good citizens. It is a libel on the Conservative party, in that it makes their leader an accomplice of #sassins. It this is a greenmen of the literature

If this is a specimen of the literature's supplied as prizes to our scholars in re-ligious, god fearing schools, and paid for by the money of Catholics and Pro-testants alike, it is no wonder that the Manifestants aritige height about the Mauitoba authorities have abolished re-ligious instruction in their schools. The book is a disgrace to the Government which has given it its approval, and its distribution to children ought to be forbidden.'

Thanking you in advance for the space in your valuable paper, Yours sincerely. R. FLETCHER.

RODNEY

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, of Clifton, were the guests of Dr. Dorland over Sunday.

Miss Shaw, of London, and Miss Snyder, of Toronto, are spending a few days at the parsonage.

H. F. Jell visited at his old home at Walkerville last week.

The entertainment given by the Sunday school of the Presbyterian church was a success both financially and otherwise. H. Ruthven McDonald gave several songs and recitations which were wall rendered and well received. Proceeds, about \$37.

Miss Joliffe is spending her vacation at her home at Rockwood.

Mr. Wallace, of London, has been en-gaged as principal of ous public school for 1896. We congratulate the school board on obtaining a teacher so highly recommended.

There will be a cantata given in the Bap-tiot church on New Year's night which promises to be a treat, as a lot of time and ability is being spent. Mr. M. Werner has charge of it.

Congratulations are the order of the week to our esteemed friend. F. G. McDiar-mid.

Neil McMillan took in Detroit on Xmas. and reports having a splendid time.

Mrs. McEachren, of Wardsville, is spend-ing & few days visiting Mrs. J. B. Campbell

Ernest Liebner, of Walkerton, is visiting his sister, Mrs. D. H. McRitchie.

F ad Brown, V.S., after an absence of thes years in Mossomin, N.W.T., has re-turned to spend the winter under the par-ental roof.

MUIRKIRK.

Dec. 31-The death of Mrs. Alex. McDonald occurred last Wednesday after a short illness with typhoid fever. Her sister, Mrs. Wade, died only a week ago with the same trouble. Mrs. Mc. Donald leaves a husband but no family. The interment took place Thursday to the Duart cemetery.

About 2,000 lambs were shipped from here during the month of November, the bulk of them going to Buffalo.

Wedding bells were ringing in this wichnity on Christmas Day. The resi-dence of Thomas Routledge was the scene of a happy event on Wednesday, being the marriage of his youngest

MIGHIGAN CENTRAL Flannels . . . "The Niagara Falls Route." TIME TABLE. Yarns GOING EAST. Mail. Exp's Local Blankets . . . 7,10 7.39 7.46 7.58 8.10 8.19 8.40 ...9.45 ...10.17 ...10.34 ...10.48 ...11.01 ...11.09 ...11.30 $10.55 \\11.35 \\12.28 \\12.50 \\1.30 \\1.45 \\2.25 \\$ Ridgetowii Rodney..... Bismarck... Dutton..... Tweeds ... St. Thomas (arrive) Hosiery, Etc. Local A.M. 5,35 6.05 6.15 6.30 7,05 7,48 9,10 4,00 P.M. 6.35 9.54 7.02 7.19 7.25 7.33 8.00 10.30 Iona ... Dutton DUTTON WOOLLEN MILLS. Redney Redney Ridgetown 3.30 ..3.39 ...4.07 ...6.45 We warrant perfect satisfaction in our LONDON AND ST. THOMAS. Tailoring Department A.M. 11.35 12.10 And 100 Pieces of Suitings to Choose From. Try us. We can please you. L. J. WILLSON & Co. FOR SERVICE. Valuabe Farm Lands For Sale. THE undersigned has for service a large English Berkshire Boar, thoroughbred.

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Mr. David Waugh, of Rodney, was married Wednesday at the residence of the Hon. G. W. Ross, Toronto, to Miss Nettie Ferguson, of Toronto.

A large number of guests were present. The newly wedded couple left on Thursday for their new home at Fargo. John Clark, of Cowal, is spending his holidays here.

Miss Kirk, who has taught school here for the past three years, has secured a school near Calgary. She has won for herself many friends dur-ing her stav here and will be greatly missed. On Thursday night about 60 of her friends assembled at the resi-dence of Mr. Cook and surprised Miss Kirk by presenting her with an address and a beautiful Bible from the Sunday school and Epworth League of Christian Endcavor Society. She also received a photo of her Sunday school class in a beautiful frame. Her day scholars presented her with a handkerchief and glove holder.

In Duart on Christmas Henry Keohler was united in marriage to Miss Ada Sinclair. The ceremony was performed by Elder Pollard, of Dunwich.

On Christmas Day at the residence of Mr. Thomas Davidson his eldest daughter, Annie Laurie, was united in marriage to Mr. Stewart Thompson, of Duart. The puptial knot was tied by Rev. A. I. Snyder, of Rodney. The happy couple left on I hursday on their wedding trip to Ingersol1.

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