

MR. BARRON'S SPEECH

On Dual Language in N. W. T.

From the Hansard.

Continued from page 3.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Did the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) not argue that there could be no such thing as national unity without one language, and did he not quote Freeman and Max Muller for the purpose of establishing that proposition?

Mr. MCCARTHY. I disclaim having argued any such ridiculous proposition. I argued that community of language tended to unity, not that it was necessary.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). That it was necessary.

Mr. MCCARTHY. No.

Mr. BARRON. But the member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) says it is the same thing.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I did not say it was the same thing. I stated he said so.

Mr. BARRON. Well, he argues, as I understand, that the proposition of the member for North Simcoe is the same thing almost as if he proposed to reject the French language entirely. That contention reminds me of a story in a little book called "Alice in Wonderland," which all hon. gentlemen who may be happy enough to have families, no doubt, have read. Little Alice was seated at the head of the table, and there were present a hatter, a March hare, and a dormouse. An argument announced by little Alice did not seem quite to suit the hatter, and so the hatter said: "You might just as well say, little Alice, that because 'I see what I eat,' that it is the same as 'I eat what I see,'" and the March hare also rejoined: "You might just as well say that because 'I like what I get' it is the same thing as that 'I get what I like'; and the dormouse said: "Because, little Alice says, 'I breathe when I sleep,' you might as well say it is the same 'hing as that 'I sleep when I breathe,'" and the hatter, summing up the propositions, said that little Alice must expect such inconsistent propositions, as these, if she was to stand by the argument she advanced a few moments ago. I think if the hatter in the story were in the House he would have addressed the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) regarding his argument in much the same way as he admonished little Alice on this particular occasion of Alice's conversation. It is impossible for me, not being a historian, to follow the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) in his historical crusades throughout the universe. He travelled up and down longitudes and back and forward over latitudes to find authorities to show that it is in the interests of the unity of the Empire and of the country that dual language should be retained. The hon. member introduced us to the Jews, to the Gentiles, and to the Greeks; he then took us among the Parthians, the Medes, the Elamites; then he brought us to dwell in Mesopotamia and Judea, and back again to the reign of Ahasuerus; then he asked us to travel with him mentally among the Italians of Malta, and then jumped across the Atlantic to take us among the French of Quebec. Then he introduced us among the Dutch of the Cape, took us to Calcutta among the Hindoos, and then among the Chinese of Hong Kong. He talked of the Helots of Sparta, and travelled in and out among the Ionian Islands. He took us back to the Roman Empire, and then with one stupendous bound brought us among the Algonquin tribes of the North-West.

All this for the purpose of showing us that dual language is not harmful, but that it is, in fact, rather desirable to have a variety of languages, and thereby the unity of the Empire is perpetuated and secured. But, Sir, the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), from the Alpha to the Omega of his speech, never said one word about that great example shown us by the country to the south of us—I refer to the United States. Although the hon. gentleman referred to almost every country of the universe, he never once said a solitary word about the example shown us by the United States. There is not a doubt that in that great country their stupendous advance in civilization and their immense advance in national strength and power, have been to a very great extent secured by the fact that they have one common school system, and one language from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf of Mexico to the boundaries which separate them from Canada. I do not propose to follow the different members of this House who have given us the examples of Germany, Poland, Finland, Russia, and other countries. I prefer to take the statement of the hon. gentleman from Albert (Mr. Weldon), a gentleman whom this House recognizes as a great student of history and as one more able to speak on this important matter than gentlemen who within the last three or four months have refreshed their memories and secured new information with the object of addressing the House on this question.

I listened to the remark of the hon. the Premier himself when he replied to the leader of the Opposition—a leader for whom we all have more than ordinary respect and towards whom we entertain feelings akin to love and affection. This makes it all the harder for me to speak on this occasion, for I know that in saying what I do say and in feeling as I do feel I am not in accord with the leader of the Liberal leader, but, on the contrary, I am doing that way, and I am saying that, and I shall vote that which is contrary to his wishes, and perhaps shall hurt his feelings in a way I would not like. I think that the hon. the leader of the Opposition was right when he said that at all times in the history of Canada the rights of the minority were disregarded by the Conservative party. We have only to go back to the times of the Family Compact. We have only to go back to the Seigniorial tenures—the abolition of which the Right hon. gentleman took credit for the Conserva-

tive party, to prove this. Why, Sir, everything in the way of reform which has been done by the Conservative party (if my reading of history is correct) has been brought about by the bayonet of argument addressed by the Reform party to the Conservative party of this country. The Conservatives have been forced time and time again to do that which they say now they did willingly, but which they only did willingly because it was done for the purpose of preserving themselves in power. We find now that the Conservative party in this House are actually, partially acceding to the proposition of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy). If the hon. the First Minister regards the rights of the minority, why did he not support the amendment of the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Beauvois)? No; on the contrary, to please a certain portion of the community, he goes against that which he has spoken for this afternoon, and brings in a clear amendment in favor of abolishing the dual language. The only difference between the amendment of the hon. Minister of Justice and the Bill of the hon. member for North Simcoe is that the hon. Minister refuses to do to-day that which the hon. member for North Simcoe wants done to-day, but he says he will do it to-morrow, which after all becomes except in point of time practically the same thing. The hon. Minister appeals to this House, not to be possessed of animus, not to create racial or creed animosity. We know that the right hon. First Minister is the general-in-chief of Mr. Meredith, who is carrying on a crusade against Mr. Mowat in respect to Separate Schools and the alleged use of French in the schools in Ontario; and if the right hon. gentleman is consistent, after the language he used this afternoon, he will write to Mr. Meredith and tell him to stop this crusade; and not only so, but he will support Mr. Mowat in his efforts to do what is right and just to the French minority in that Province.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Follow the example of the Opposition here.

Mr. BARRON. Yes; he has had to appeal to the hon. leader of the Opposition here, and to the hon. member for West Durham, and they, being possessed of patriotic feeling, desire to help the Premier in this great difficulty; but the right hon. the Prime Minister cannot be consistent so long as he assists and upholds Mr. Meredith in Ontario in his present crusade and addresses the House as he did this afternoon. I was surprised, Sir, to hear the right hon. gentleman stigmatise the resolution of the hon. member for North Simcoe as the sting of a gnat. I do not know whether he meant that the resolution itself was a gnat, or that the hon. member for North Simcoe was a gnat; if he referred to the hon. member, he made a very unhappy reference.

Mr. BARRON. Now, I want to refer to a point made by the hon. member for Albert (Mr. Weldon), for whom, as a constitutional lawyer, we must have the greatest possible respect, and I refer to it more particularly because the point was also raised by the hon. Minister of Justice. The hon. member in his speech said: "As I sit down my attention has been called by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Girouard) to a constitutional point which, I think, might be very well stated at this juncture, namely, that whatever we desire to do in the North-West Territories in regard to the schools or the Assembly or the printing of papers or judicial proceedings, we have no power under the constitution to deal with the use of the French language in the courts; for section 133 of the British North America Act reads as follows:—

"Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the Houses of Parliament of Canada and of the Houses of the Legislature of Quebec; and both those languages shall be used in the respective records and journals of those Houses; and either of those languages may be used by any person, or in any pleading or process in or issuing from any court of Canada established under this Act."

The hon. Minister of Justice advanced the argument that the Bill would not be effectual in destroying the use of the French language in the courts of the North-West Territories, because those courts were courts of Canada established under this Act. I deny that proposition. I say the courts in the North-West Territories are simply local courts. It is true, they were created by the Parliament of Canada; but they are not the courts to which this section refers. It refers to the Supreme Court and the Exchequer Court in the city of Ottawa; but, you might as well say that the different courts in the Province of Ontario were courts of Canada under this section, as to claim that the courts of the North-West Territories are courts of Canada established under this Act.

The New Archdiocese.

A despatch from Kingston says:—On Friday evening three documents were received at the palace from Rome. One divides the ecclesiastical province of Toronto separating from it the dioceses of Kingston and Peterborough, whose territory is constituted a new province, with Kingston for its metropolis, to which the diocese of Peterborough and the new diocese shall be created in the eastern part of Kingston territory are assigned as suffragan sees. The second document appoints Most Rev. James Vincent Cleary archbishop of the metropolitan see of Kingston. The third document, dated January 21, 1890, canonically erects the new diocese, defining its territory to be the civil counties of Glangary and Stormont united with Cornwall, having for its boundary the river St. Lawrence on the south, the civil provinces of Quebec on the east, the counties of Prescott and Russell, with part of Carleton, on the north, and the county of Dundas on the west. Alexandria, the chief town of Glangary, is made an episcopal see, from which the diocese takes its name and the bishop his title.

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FIRST Day of JUNE next, viz: 50,000 feet of 2x12 12 feet in length; 15,000 " 2x12 13 " " " " 10,000 " 2x10 12 " " " " 10,000 " 2x10 13 " " " "

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TERMS.

Tenders must be on a printed form which can be obtained at the clerk's office, and must be accompanied with a marked cheque for ten per cent of the amount of the offer and state proposed terms of payment, and parties tendering for parcel one must furnish description and plan of buildings intended to be erected and state time within which they will be erected.

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Lindsay, Feb. 6th, 1890.—4

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