

from the charge of intolerance, and held that their course in the appointment of Protestants in the civil service, and in the election of Protestants to the Legislature, had been a lesson in tolerance to the wealthier Province of Ontario. Mr. Evanturel then rallied Mr. Meredith for his frequent swallowing of his opinions, and reminded him of his change from the time when he exclaimed against the man who would lay a sacrilegious hand upon the rights assured to the Roman Catholics by the B. N. A. act. He spoke at some length upon this subject, and defended the character and tolerance of the French race and Roman Catholic minority. He held that they had no unjust privileges, and had done nothing to excite the hostility of those assailing them.

Dr. Ryerson declared that he would vote for the bill because it embodied the principle of church and State, because it contained the clause making Roman Catholics *prima facie* Public School supporters, and because it insisted on a personal declaration from Roman Catholics that they would be Separate School supporters.

Mr. White spoke briefly, declaring that he would not vote for the bill, as there were certain features in it which he could not support.

Mr. Meredith rallied Mr. Evanturel on his speech, which he took to be a bid for the Commissionship of Public Works, and then declared that he would vote for the second reading of the bill because it contained provisions which should be the law of the land. It had provisions which trenched on the stipulations of the B. N. A. act, but they could be removed in committee. It must not be understood that in voting in this manner he was supporting any attack upon what had been guaranteed to the Roman Catholics by the B. N. A. act.

The Attorney-General said there were several reasons why this bill should not be read a second time. The bill read a second time during the afternoon was optional in principle. The main purpose of this bill was that it should be compulsory, a principle that had been negatived by reading the other bill. Mr. Meredith had said Mr. Evanturel was not important to answer, yet he had done little else than try to answer that hon. gentleman. He had ascribed selfish motives to Mr. Evanturel. He did that now to everything that was done or said on the Government side of the House. He did not think Mr. Meredith had suggested any ground on which the House could properly or safely vote for Mr. McCallum's bill.

Mr. Clancy said if the members on the Government side of the House were proud of the speech of Mr. Evanturel they were welcome to be so. He was going to vote for this bill, but he did so distinctly on the understanding that he favored the principle of applying the same compulsory principle to both Public and Separate Schools. Therefore, though he did not approve of some of the clauses, he voted for the second reading.

Hon. Mr. Ross said he wished Mr. McCallum had explained his bill more fully. The bill went further than anything Mr. Meredith had suggested. It provided that in rural schools, where one ratepayer demanded a poll it should be held, and held by ballot. The bill provided no machinery for carrying out the provisions of the bill. In this particular it was very defective. The bill also proposed a very serious inroad on the Separate School act of 1863, very materially limiting the privileges conferred upon Roman Catholics in respect to their status as Separate School supporters. Mr. White, he observed, was unable to follow Mr. McCallum, but Mr. Clancy had mustered the courage to do so conditionally. Mr. Ross went on to discuss the details of the bill, and to show the objections to their passing into law.

Mr. McCleary, in the course of a few remarks, said Mr. McCallum represented the views of hundreds and thousands of Liberals in the Province of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Fraser took objection to Mr. McCleary's remark. Mr. McCallum had, in effect, admitted that his aim was to cripple the Separate School system.

Mr. McCleary said that this was not the case.

Mr. Fraser went on to criticize the action of Mr. Clancy in voting for the second reading of a bill which contained much that he did not approve of simply because it contained a provision making the ballot compulsory on Public and Separate Schools alike.

Mr. White interpolated that Mr. Clancy had done this because he was a courageous man.

The Commissioner of Public Works retorted that some men were courageous because they were foolish.

Mr. Clancy defended his action in voting for the second reading of a bill because he approved some features of it. It was a well-established principle that this might be done.

Mr. Meredith also defended Mr. Clancy's action.

Mr. Dack said he would vote against the bill, his especial ground being the fact that it made the ballot compulsory for rural school sections, which would be unworkable. Moreover, the Separate School

system was the result of a compact which should be kept. If there were good features in the bill, they could be embodied in Mr. Connée's bill in committee.

The division was then taken, and the second reading of the bill was negatived by 53 to 28.

Mr. McNaughton again supported the Government, and the only departure from party lines was in the case of Mr. White, who voted with the majority.

After debating a few minutes to routine work, the House adjourned at 11.30 o'clock.