

valuable for the peace and harmony of our country, which are essential to our wellbeing. If there ever was a period when hasty action should be avoided, if there ever was a time when coercion should be avoided, it is the present. Events seemed not improbable lately, the prospect of which stirred up the patriotism of our people, which stirred up in us all a desire for a more hearty and more permanent union in this Dominion of Canada; the present is the very time when hasty coercion should not be thought of, and ample time should be given. If it be said that there is no object to be gained by a commission of inquiry as asked for by Manitoba, if that be the opinion of those who support the proposed remedial measure, there would at all events be no harm in such an inquiry. The Manitoba people are of opinion that there are important facts which should be laid before the commission in an authoritative way in order to enable all concerned to judge what ought to be done by the Manitoba Legislature or Dominion Parliament. The Dominion Government may not expect to learn any facts which they do not know already, but surely it is a monstrous thing to say that in a delicate matter of this kind they will not even hear what may be produced before a commission. In view of these and other considerations I ask the House to support the following amendment:—

THE AMENDMENT.

"That by the British North America act the matter of education (subject to certain provisions therein specified) belongs to the Provincial Legislatures and not to the Dominion Parliament.

"That the act of the Manitoba Legislature abolishing Separate Schools has been declared by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to be within the authority of the said Legislature, and therefore, in point of law, a valid act.

"That the said Judicial Committee has further decided that the provisions of the said act deprive the Roman Catholic minority of 'affected rights or privileges in relation to education,' in a manner which constitutes, in the language of the judgment, a legitimate ground of complaint, which should be removed by supplemental provisions, which would remove the grievance.

"That, while probably the great majority of the people of Ontario do not favor Separate Schools, yet they have always recognized the constitutional duty of giving effect to Provincial legislation, and otherwise, to the provision of the constitution on the subject.

"That it will be extremely unfortunate if the remedy for the alleged grievance in Manitoba is to be accomplished by the action of the Dominion Parliament instead of the Manitoba Legislature.

"That in the judgment of this House remedial legislation by the Dominion is only to be thought of, if at all, as a last resort.

"That the Legislature of Manitoba has protested against the hasty action which is proposed by the Dominion Government, has asked for a thorough investigation by Dominion authority of all the facts bearing, or believed to bear, on the subject, before any action is taken, and has declared 'that in amending the law from time to time, and in administering the system, it is their earnest desire to remedy every well-founded evil, and to remove every appearance of inequality or injustice which may be brought to notice,' and has stated that 'with the view of doing so the Government and the Legislature will always be ready to consider any complaint that may be made in a spirit of fairness and conciliation.'

"In view of these statements, the House is of opinion that the proposal of remedial legislation by the Dominion should not be entertained until after the request of the Manitoba Legislature for a thorough investigation on the part of the Dominion of all the facts is acted upon, and all reasonable and proper efforts for conciliation have been made and have failed.

"That no more delicate matter can be dealt with by the Federal Government or Legislature than the matter of Separate Schools during a period of excitement upon the subject.

"That it is in the common interest that it should not be dealt with hastily; and

"That hasty action by the Parliament is, in the judgment of the House, fraught with great danger to the best interests of the Dominion as a whole, including the interests of the Roman Catholic minority, for whom benefit the proposed remedial legislation is designed."

MR. HOWLAND'S SPEECH.

After Sir Oliver Mowat concluded Mr. Howland rose. The member for South Toronto began by saying that Mr. Crawford had laid before them certain propositions asking them to pronounce an opinion partly on behalf of the people and partly on behalf of the Legislature. They had been asked to express an opinion regarding Manitoba matters, while on the other hand there was an allegation that Manitoba should not be interfered with. The constitution stated that there was jurisdiction to interfere with Manitoba placed with the Dominion House. Nevertheless the Ontario House would not be performing any constitutional act in expressing an opinion; its members would not be acting in a legislative capacity. The opinion of his constituents had been pretty well manifested in a very largely attended public meeting a few days ago. Mr. Crawford had expressed in his resolution an opinion entertained by the majority of the citizens in South Toronto, but there was no aspect in which they should entertain that question since it was brought up. Such a resolution as had been introduced, said Mr. Howland, could have no moral or legal effect on the Parliament or any member of Parliament. The time taken up in passing it could not be justly or honorably accounted for to the constituents. But it would be a very serious thing if there were any rights or interests of this Province which were being threatened by any action of, or that it would possibly result from the present proceedings in, the Parliament of Canada. The members had not been startled at the proposition which came from the Attorney-General. It was exactly in sympathy with Mr. Laurier's policy. The breach between the races, Mr. Howland continued, was so great that he would be willing to see it healed by a change of Government if that was the only way to secure the peace and happiness of the Dominion. Neither of the parties felt fully and frankly what they said about concessions. The question should not be looked upon as a party question. But there was a difficulty in having that principle adopted. If they did not do that it merely meant a prolongation of the agony. The only way in which they could hope to introduce a better state of feeling was by laying down a principle that it should not be regarded as a party question. It was probable that at some future time some clause in Ontario's law may be appealed, and it is therefore of interest to this Province to note what the constitutional procedure would be in such a case, and that in such an event they should be met with judicial consideration, not party arguments, upon their merits, not according to the number of votes they could command. Mr. Howland read a quotation from Sir Charles Tupper's speech, and said that the Government claim that the bill is introduced in obedience to the constitution of the country. He then quoted from Mr. Laurier's speech, remarking that he thought there would be no difficulty in adopting his resolution on that subject. Mr. Howland also quoted from the British North America act to show the powers of the Dominion. Mr. Laurier's position, he went on, was perfectly correct according to the present condition of the country.

Mr. Howland had not concluded when the Speaker left the chair, a few minutes before 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

When the House resumed shortly before 9 o'clock the galleries were all filled to overflowing with people anxious to hear the debate.

The following bills were given a second reading:—

Mr. Crawford—Respecting the Hospital for Sick Children.

Mr. Matheson—To incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa in connection with the Church of England.

Mr. Bronson—Respecting by-laws Nos. 1,458 and 1,628 of the City of Ottawa.

Mr. Howland, continuing his speech, said the remedial bill was extraordinary in its jurisdiction, and he was not aware of any power similar to that