

April 8

night. His voice was clear in the top galleries, and he used it to give the Legislature one of the finest bits of old-style oratory in recent Queen's Park annals.

The now grey-haired separate school spokesman pressed his plea with the enthusiasm which he is reported to have taken into caucus. At one point he intimated that the bill did not fulfil all his desires. "But in the present state of the spirit, in the face of the bitter propaganda being made, it would be futile to make any attempt to give full justice."

"I appeal, Mr. Speaker, to the people of Ontario to leave aside religious prejudice, every creed bias, and to judge this on its merits. Who will deny that under the present system there is no such thing as equality of opportunity for the children of the Province?"

"Not Dollars and Cents."

"The separate school supporters—and it has been rightly said that our Catholic people are the poorer people—the poorer people have to pay double the rate of the richer element. Where is the equality of opportunity? How can we say that the Province of Ontario is a democracy? I understand that the first element in the democratic concept is equality. Where is the democracy under the present system of our schools. Democracy means that the surplus of the rich will help the poor."

"I think the right-minded people of the Province will look at that side of it—and not dollars and cents."

"Over your head, Mr. Speaker, is the British coat of arms, and that British coat of arms contains a French inscription between the lion and the unicorn: 'Dieu et mon droit'—not my right, but my right."

"I appeal to the members and the Province to look at this in its true light. The principle underlying the bill is bigger than any criticism. Some one will say it is badly drafted. What has the frame got to do with a beautiful picture?"

The member for Carleton (A. H. Acres) had appealed for equal rights to all and special privileges for none.

The French-Canadian M.P.P. asked if a Catholic shareholder's taxes should go to the public schools.

"Where is the equality of rights?"

Should the tax of the C.P.R.—subsidized by Dominion grants paid in part by Catholic citizens—go to the public schools?

"Where is the equality of rights? And yet we are denied a share, a little share, the smallest share of the taxes paid by that corporation."

"I'm not talking of legal rights, I'm talking of justice—the rights under the law and the rights under justice are two different things."

Protestant Schools in Quebec.

The Protestant schools in Quebec were not actually separate schools, said Mr. Belanger, but were common schools just as much as the Catholic schools of Quebec, inasmuch as they shared in proper proportion the assistance of the common purse. There was no excuse, he said, for a misunderstanding of the status of so-called separate schools, and he deplored deeply what he called the tendency in some circles to regard the Catholic schools of Ontario as "a sort of bad growth" upon the body of the public school system.

If Hon. G. Howard Ferguson were now Leader of the Opposition, he would not only support the bill, but would co-operate with the Prime Minister in drafting it, the Prescott member claimed.

At the most, he said, the new diversion of taxes would not affect any public school supporter's purse to the extent of more than 7/10 of 1 mill. "Is that not a small price," he asked, "to pay for the privilege of extending to one section of the people the rights which they ask? Yet it is being claimed that this bill will be the ruination of the public schools. Ruination, forsooth!"

"The existence of separate schools in the Province of Ontario," he declared, "represents an element of salvation to the public school structure." If the separate schools were to close, he argued, a tremendous increase in the public school rate would place an unendurable burden on the ratepayer.

Today, he said, the Conservatives who opposed the bill were ruthlessly setting aside the heritage of Sir John Macdonald, who had "practically pledged conservatism" to concessions to the Roman Catholic minority in Ontario. And he concluded with a paraphrase of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as others are doing unto you."

"Led Around by Nose."

The last two speakers to the bill before adjournment were W. A. Baird and William Duckworth, Toronto Tories.

Mr. Baird offered a detailed and carefully prepared review of the historical origin of the issue, and declared that it was the bounden duty of the Legislature to protect the people of Ontario from the danger of having some of their taxes diverted for the support of schools other than public.

Mr. Duckworth, whose address was

cut short by adjournment, declared: "This is not a tax fight between the Protestants and Catholics. All the trouble is created by a gang of agitators such as Mr. Quinn for their own personal gain. The Prime Minister," he added, "is being led around by the nose by a bunch of contemptible political agitators."

MAY PASS BILL BEFORE FRIDAY

If Not, House Will Meet Saturday and Monday

Queen's Park hopes that Easter will be quitting time were upped a little at 1 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning, when Premier Hepburn let William Duckworth, Toronto Tory M.P.P. adjourn the debate.

The action was seen as an indication that the Opposition and Government may stop the school fight in time to get the bill through before Friday. It must get second reading today to go through on that time schedule.

The Premier would only say that the House would meet Saturday and Monday if the bill was not through by Thursday night. It was indicated that the Civil Service will also have to stay at their jobs if this proves to be the case.

Labor Problem

MANY department stores and chain organizations were hiring boys and girls after they left high school, paying them meagre wages, and then, when they became 21, replacing them with a new and younger "crop," the Ontario Legislature was told yesterday by William Duckworth, Toronto Tory. Mr. Duckworth raised the point during second reading of a bill to amend the Industrial Standards Act. The Toronto Conservative urged upon Labor Minister Croll the need for legislation to protect the young wage-earner.