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## Autonomy Bill.

The following article on the educational clauses of the Autonomy bills is from the Alberta Advocate, published at Red Deer, Alberta, by Mr J. R. Cowell who is an ex-member of the British House of Commons. It appeared in the Toronto Star a few days ago, and we reproduce it as a timely contribution to a subject that will be debated more or less bitterly in the bye-elections occurring on June 13. The arguments of Mr Cowell and other prominent men "on the spot" should have more weight than windy deliverances in Ontario:

"We stated some time ago that we were looking into the controversy on the education clause of the bill for granting Provincial Government to the Territories and that we should give our readers the conclusions arrived at. Like many another agitation and controversy, amidst endless talk, and much printer's ink, the greater part of it all has been vain repetition. At Ottawa, where the debate was continued for weeks, the rule seems to obtain that every man must get a chance to deliver his set speech, no matter what its length or irrelevancy.

### APPEALS TO PREJUDICE

Many papers in the Dominion, notoriously in Toronto, have continued to print great headlines of an appealing or protesting nature, and the use of the cartoon to excite and influence certain minds has been extensively made use of. We issue our protest against much that has been said, written, and sketched. The appeal has been to the prejudices which lie near to the surface in almost every human life, to race hatred, to religious bigotry, bulls, priests, and such like illustrations, often senseless and witless, have had enormous circulation, each sane man feeling that the only thing aimed at was a feeling against the Roman priesthood.

No hatred equals the so-called religious kind. Heaven knows it need not be appealed to and excited; it is too strong and liable to break out in most men, and we set ourselves to condemn much of the Eastern press during this late period, and to say, the while only directing and editing a Provincial journal in the far West we would scorn to use, now, or at any time, such weapons as have been used by men who have a reputation in the journalistic world, or to write such deliberately misleading matter as we have too often had to read.

### TORONTO STORM CENTER

As we imatated recently, the storm center in time of this educational disturbance has been in the East, chiefly in Toronto, while here, the part of the Dominion mainly concerned, all has been calm, deliberate, and watchful. How is this? Why this outside burning desire to fight for us, and to die in our interests? It is not easy to explain, unless by the hypothesis that there is another motive not our interests only. Can it be said the East understands the conditions of the West better than we do right here on the ground? On the contrary we contend they do not know the facts—or, if they do, they hide them—as well as we in the West do, and it is this ignorance of the truth, or suppression of truth, which has done much to obscure the issue, and has given the East the chance to appeal to those passions and prejudices, which, we assert, should never be appealed to by any writer or speaker who has a conscience or any desire to forward the cause of truth.

In the bill to give Provincial powers to this proposed Province of Alberta—the creating Saskatchewan is practically the same—powers are given over such matters as property belong to a Province, but in the case of education an exception is made. As the bill now stands, the present system of schools in the Territories must continue.

### LAURIER'S COURAGE.

The matter of Public education must not be left open and undecided. The controversy at one time raging throughout the settled parts of the Dominion must not again be stirred up. Sir Wilfrid Laurier believes that he is bound by the provisions of the British North America Act to do as he has done others believe he is not so bound. Much turns upon the interpretation of the spirit as of the letter of this Act, which is an Imperial one. No end of discussion has gone on in the House of Ottawa on the constitutional points raised. Probably all that can be for or against has been said. No one is much the wiser. One point does appear. If Sir Wilfred is wrongly or rightly advised on the constitutional points, he must be credited with courage in dealing with the subject. Had he done what so many of his opponents called upon him to do, and been silent on this school matter, he would personally have been relieved of a most wearisome and protracted disputation, and of much bitter personal attack. But, as we think with honest intent, and acting with true statesmanship, he took the responsibility upon himself, and has succeeded in giving occasion to his political opponents to rage against him as being the tool of sectarianism and has given to many of his co-religionists much dissatisfaction.

### IGNORANCE IN THE EAST.

There is much ignorance shown in the East about our school system. Our system is not their's. Our system is not the old dual system. Our system is not a system of Separate schools at all in the sense in which many use the expression. Probably the best words to use in this connection are "Minority" schools, or "Permissive" schools. Our school system is so far superior in its conception and so much better in its practical operation to anything in Ontario, that we can politely, but pertinently suggest to the agitators down there, to set their own house in order before they venture to interfere with ours. What is the system of schools in the Territories, which seems to us to be about perfection? That there shall be Public schools built, staffed and supported as provided by our Territorial ordinance wherever such schools are required. But knowing the mischief of the dual, or double set of schools system, and knowing of the bitterness and hatred engendered in old Canada on the matter of religious education, our wise and far-seeing representatives in the territorial assembly, made a simple provision, that where a minority of voters who believe in the benefits of dogma wished to have such, and felt the ordinary Public school did not supply all they desired, then they could, as provided, have another school at their own cost, and be exempt from the support of the ordinary Public school, but the school which they provided for their own children must be in every sense a Public school under the Act, have the same duly qualified teachers, same text books, same curriculum, same standard and rules of examination, must meet the same demand made for efficiency in the teaching, and obtain thereby the same aid from government as other Public schools; out, and here is the only point of difference, after half past three o'clock each day the children may be taught the religion or dogma of the said minority.

### HAS WORKED WELL.

The ordinary school and the permissive schools are precisely the same in all matter of teacher and work, up to 3.30 o'clock each day. This has worked well and let it be carefully noted, no one suggested to alter this system in one jot or tittle, until this agitation began in the East, and even after all this we are perfectly satisfied it is the best because the simplest, fairest, and most practical under test, we believe, of any found in Canada. We do not wish to be misunderstood. We do not ourselves believe in any system of Public schools but one. We have contended for one Public school system all our days, but in Canada there have been many battles over this question, and, taking all things into consideration, we see there has been a compromise, one meant to meet the views of others who think differently to ourselves, of people who believe their children should be under some religious influence. The arrangement is not of our making. We never did see good reasons for exceptions in Public school, but Canada did, the several Legislatures did, the House of Commons did, and the Imperial Parliament did also. What appears to us now is simply this, on the accepted basis of the parties concerned a compromise was reached to try to meet all sides, the rights of minorities were respected and so long as this is the ground upon which education has to be regarded, we think the system now in existence in the territories is the least objectionable. Under it no particular sect seems to have any advantage. Generally it has given satisfaction and worked well. Premier Haultain has said that the territories would, if they had anything to do with it, continue the present system. In the whole of the territories, under a dozen or thereabouts, minority or permissive schools exist, several of these are small, and, we believe, feeble.

### NO SECTARIAN DANGER.

The great cry of "Rome" does not seem to be more than a bogey to frighten weak persons. We say now deliberately, we see nothing to alarm anyone. We see no sectarian danger. Several of the high clergy of the Roman Catholic Church think they have no rights granted them under our system. We do not agree with them. We think the government has acted wisely in endeavoring to give finality to the basis under which we carry out Public School work in this part of Canada. In fact, the quietness shown out West is the quietness of conscious superiority and right. In a short time all this strife will have ended. The bill will pass. Our school system will continue as it is. We are proud of it, not because we personally think it the best conceivable in theory, but the best practicable under existing circumstances in Canada.

While many priests of the Roman Church may be dissatisfied, we believe most of their laity are content. It is regretable that at the commencement of our Provincial life this attempt to stir up strong passion has been made. We rejoice, however, to believe that from now onward we may be outside the influence of great political agitations designed to accomplish more than the object so cunningly placed in the foreground. We hate religious strife as we hate the devil, and we are glad to believe that in this case the vigorous attempt to create it has not succeeded so far as the North-West is concerned. We hope to give ourselves to better work and nobler causes.

The great cause of education should not be brought into party politics. We are glad the West does not desire it and will not encourage it. It is, to every true citizen of this new land, a matter of much satisfaction, that whatever may be said or done about the constitutional points raised in this connection the whole controversy has gone to confirm and establish the wisdom and desirability of maintaining under the circumstances in which we find the community, the school system now in active and beneficial use in the territories.

## Normanby Council.

The Municipal Council of the Township of Normanby met in the Township Hall, Ayton, on Thursday, May 25th, as a Court of Revision and for general business; Reeve Morice in the chair, all the other members present. After some minor business the Council formed into a Court after each member took the Oath of Declaration.

Murray--Koenig. That the minutes of the previous meeting as read be adopted. Carried.

The following men were reduced in their assessments;

H. G. Grien $50, John D. Damm $100, James Rowan $100, Geo. Derbecker $100 Wm. Keair $100, Ayton Cordage Co. $2,975, Thos. Adair $100, Christian Reiner $100.

Moore—Umbach. That C. Chilton be paid 15c per rod for wire fence on lot 12 con. 16, Minto to pay an equal amount. Carried.

Among the accounts to be paid were the following:—Miller & Seim, lumber and timber for bridge, lot 15, con. 17, $138.55; James Watt, filling in approach at bridge, lot 15, con. 17, $6.30; James Hoy, filling in washout at Varney, Egremont to pay half $1.00; Com. Murray, to pay parties drawing piles and moving driver to Neustadt, $27.00, N. Wenger & Bros. lumber etc., 1904 account, $17.35; N. Wenger & Bros., nails & lumber, $18.45; Council meeting at date, $11.80; Commissioners, Reeve 4, Koenig 3, Murray 7, Moore 4, Umbach 14, total, $32.00.

Murray—Morice. That $50 be granted to Normanby Agricultural Show to be held in Neustadt.—Carried, Umbach voting against motion.

Murray—Morice, That Mr Koenig's offer of $40 be accepted for the Township gravel pit—Carried, Moore voting against motion.

Koenig—Murray, That Reeve Morice interview and assist Mr Isaac Traynor re deviation road, description etc.

The Council adjourned to meet on Tuesday, June 6th, at 10 a. m., as a Court of Revision and for general business. —Advance.

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