

hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Nantel), our opponents, both Nationalists and Conservatives, distributed right and left throughout the country the circular which I am about to read.

In order that every one may enjoy its full flavour, and also in order to unmask the hypocritical and treacherous practices of those who designate themselves the saviours of racial and religious interests, I give herewith verbatim that henceforth memorable document:

Messrs. Monk, Pelletier and Nantel are right. Mr. Roblin, Prime Minister of Manitoba, does away with the most objectionable grievances, the most intolerable hardship resulting from the outrageous Laurier-Greenway settlement.

The hon. Messrs. Monk, Pelletier and Nantel, and the members who supported them, in connection with the carrying of the Keewatin Bill, showed their absolute faith in the Hon. Mr. Roblin and his government, as well as in his legislature and the people of Manitoba. They were not mistaken.

The Manitoba School Act has just been amended, and our compatriots are at last relieved of the double tax which weighed so heavily on them since the passing of the iniquitous Laurier-Greenway settlement.

Our three distinguished compatriots who are the only representatives of the Catholics and French-Canadian minority in the Manitoba legislature are loud in their praise, as expressed in the following letter, addressed to the delegation from the province of Quebec which reached Winnipeg on the eleventh instant with a view to thanking the Hon. Mr. Roblin for what he has done in behalf of our compatriots.

Winnipeg, April 12, 1912.

To Messrs. Armand Lavergne, M.L.A., Louis Coderre, M.P., J. Rainville, M.P., Dr. E. Paquette, M.P., P. E. Lamarche, M.P., C. P. Beaubien, C.R., and Allyn Taschereau:

Gentlemen,—You have come from Quebec especially to honour in the Hon. Mr. Roblin the just and righteous man, the faithful friend and protector of the minority in this province; and it behooves us more especially as being the only French-Canadian members in the Manitoba legislature to thank you for your generous undertaking. You have come from afar to help us in better acquitting ourselves of a debt of gratitude, and you may be sure that all the French-Canadians and Catholics of Manitoba are deeply grateful to you on that account.

In return for your generous move, we beg of you to take back to our dear province of Quebec the assurance that our situation in Manitoba has 'since undergone marked improvement.'

We are at last relieved of that double tax which weighed so heavily and so unfairly on us. Thanks to the man whom you have come to honour by your presence, one of the greatest hardships, the most objectionable feature of the iniquitous Laurier-Greenway settlement, is done away with. Those who put their faith in the Hon. Mr. Roblin were not

mistaken, and you may be sure that they will not be disappointed.

We remain, gentlemen, &c.

JOSEPH BERNIER,

AIME BÉNARD,

ALBERT PRÉFONTAINE.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I may state that this document was false, and that the three members of the local House who signed it were perfectly aware that such were not the facts. I may say further that those who took it home from Winnipeg knew that the local government had not done justice to the Catholics in that province. It was nothing more than a political trick set on foot by unscrupulous people who, by such action, imperilled the cause they were supposed to defend. Now, during the electoral contest in Macdonald, a member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Aimé Bénéard, went so far as to contend at a public meeting that if the action outlined in that letter had not as yet been taken, it certainly would be within a short time; that he, Mr. Bénéard, had seen Archbishop Langevin, who had not rebuked him for signing that letter. But I did not take any stock in the statement made by that member who mumbled rather than spoke out that evening. However, before long the trickery of these three members was discovered, and the people are posted now as to the reliability of statements emanating from them.

Let us read together the editorial which appeared in *Les Cloches de St.-Boniface*, the organ of His Grace Archbishop Langevin, on the date of October 10, 1912, while the contest was going on in Macdonald.

We see by that editorial that the statement signed by Messrs. Joseph Bernier, Aimé Bénéard and Albert Préfontaine was false from beginning to end, and deliberately planned to deceive the electors of Quebec as to the state of the school question in Manitoba. But let us see what *Les Cloches* has to say:

The Winnipeg and Brandon Schools.

Nothing as yet has been done to improve the conditions of Catholic schools in Winnipeg and Brandon. We are content with mentioning the fact and abstain from making any comment, as the public are awaiting explanations which are to be given by the Hon. Mr. Coldwell, Minister of Public Instruction, in connection with the recent amendments to the school boards of those two cities.

The Catholic Federation committee has been very active and very cautious at the same time. They are in no way responsible for the present state of things.

It has been figured out that Winnipeg Catholics will pay this year at least \$80,000 of school taxes for public schools to which conscientiously they cannot send their children. Besides these same Catholics are bound to pay for the maintenance in each parish of a Catholic school, and at Ste. Marie and L'Im-

Mr. BOYER.