

Special Meeting, June 11th, 1885.

Mr. Idington moved his resolution, of which notice had been given. After some discussion the matter dropped. In consequence of the resolution not being seconded, it was then moved by Mr. Woods and seconded by Mr. Scrimgeour, that Mr. McBride be requested to make an explanation to the Board of Clauses Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, in the Circular addressed to the Municipal Electors by Mr. Idington. Carried, Mr. Steet, only, dissenting.

STRATFORD, October 20th, 1886.

Certified, JOHN C. MONTEITH,
Sec'y, Collegiate Institute Board.

(NOTE.—No further letter was received, as intimated at the close of Mr. Monteith's letter.)

The Minister, having taken all the circumstances of the case into consideration, decided to hold an investigation into the charges made by Mr. Idington, and by that means determine whether or not these charges would be sustained by the evidence of witnesses taken under oath. He, therefore, directed that the following letters should be addressed to the parties concerned. In one of them pointed out the principles on which that investigation would be conducted. The first letter was addressed to the Complainant:—

(Copy.)

“EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
“TORONTO, 2nd November, 1886.

“DEAR SIR,—With a view to afford you every opportunity of substantiating your statements and charges against Mr. McBride, Head Master of the Stratford Collegiate Institute, the Minister of Education has decided to issue a special Commission, to investigate and report to him in regard to these statements and charges.

“In order to enable the Commissioner, whom the Minister will appoint, to deal with distinct and specific charges, apart from inference or comment, he requests you to briefly formulate those charges, and number them for reference.

“You are also requested to send the names in full of any witnesses which you may desire to have examined under oath by the Commissioner, and whether or not you desire the subpoenas for such witnesses to be *duces tecum*.

“The Minister desires that the investigation should be as thorough and exhaustive as possible. Your compliance, therefore, with the request contained in this letter, at your earliest convenience will greatly facilitate that object.

“It would expedite matters if you would furnish Mr. McBride with a copy of the specific charges which you desire to make.

“I have, etc.,
(Signed,) “ALEX. MARLING,
“Secretary.

“JOHN IDINGTON, Esq., Q.C.,
Stratford.”

(Copy.)

“EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
“TORONTO, 2nd November, 1886.

“DEAR SIR,—The Minister of Education desires me to inform you that it is his intention to issue at an early date a special Commission to investigate and report to him in regard to the charges preferred against you by Mr. Idington, one of the Trustees of the Stratford Collegiate Institute.

“I will thank you to inform me if you desire to have any witnesses examined on your behalf. If so, please submit their names in full, and whether or not you would require any, (and which) of them to produce books, or documents in the case.

“I have, etc.,
(Signed,) “ALEX. MARLING,
“Secretary.

“WM. MCBRIDE, Esq., M.A.,
“Collegiate Institute, Stratford.”

Subsequently, in answer to an inquiry on the subject, the following intimation was given to Mr. McBride:—

“The Minister cannot deal with the question of paying any of your expenses until he has decided the case, on the report of the Commissioner. He will settle that point on the merits of the case, and in the interests of the public.”