

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

Published Weekly at 464 and 486 Richmond Street, London, Ontario.

Price of subscription—\$2.00 per annum.

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with the following letter in Latin signed by Cardinal Simeoni:

S. Congregazione di Propaganda Fide.

Rome, 27th August, 1889.

ILLUSTRIOUS AND MOST REVEREND FATHER,

While despatching to Your Grace the Apostolic Letters in form of Brief in virtue of which Your Grace is promoted to the Archbishopric of Toronto, with all the faculties usually granted and instructions conveyed on such occasions, permit me to congratulate you on the eminent dignity to which Your Grace is now elevated.

I have no hesitation in saying that I cherish the assured hope that Toronto will largely benefit by your administration, and I humbly pray to God that His grace may be ever present with you for the good of your new diocese and of the whole ecclesiastical province over which Your Grace is called to preside.

The sacred pallium which will be asked for at the next consistory shall be expressed to Your Grace as soon as granted.

I request that Your Grace will inform me by letter of your early official installation into the Metropolitan See of Toronto.

I most earnestly entreat God that He may long preserve and protect you.

JOANNES, CARD. SIMONI, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda.

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them as if they were worse than aliens, and in this that journal is followed by all the fanatics of the country.

The fanatics must be taught that the country is not to be governed on any such principles.

One useful lesson has been given to them in regard to their conduct concerning the Jesuit Estates Act, but they are not satisfied with it.

They must still be taught that French Canadians are as much Canadians as themselves, and as much entitled to all the rights of citizenship.

The Commissioners state that of 97 French schools visited, 24 have all the authorized books of English study, 43 have the English Ontario readers complete, 19 have the first and second books, and 11 have the Ontario first reader.

It is thus seen that in all English is taught, though in a few the progress is not great.

Of the French books used, those which are authorized in the Province of Quebec are most employed.

Some of these have been formally authorized in Ontario, and some have not, but the necessities of the case made it requisite that school inspectors should overlook some irregularities in this matter, as the Ontario school laws did not fully contemplate or provide for the case of the French readers used.

The Commissioners remark that "they contain teachings peculiar to the Church of Rome," and that they are unauthorized.

The want of authorization is, after all, not a serious matter, as the Ontario school regulations have not fully provided for suitable text-books for French schools, and under such circumstances the teachers and trustees could not do better than use books which are used in Quebec.

The teachings which are peculiar to the Catholic Church are certainly not objectionable where the children are Catholic.

We are told, however, that some Protestants complained to the Commissioners of the use of such books.

It must be acknowledged that such books ought not to be used for Protestant children, but we are confident they were not used for purposes of proselytism, or for aggression.

The school law provides ample protection to Protestant parents and children in this case, and we are sure that Catholic trustees and teachers would in every case afford to the Protestant children all the protection desirable under such circumstances, and would use other books when it would be possible to procure them.

At all events it is clear that the use of distinctively Catholic books in the case of a few Protestant children was not intentional, and it does not constitute a just cause for a violent crusade for the abolition of religious teaching in the case of Catholic children.

The remedy is to be found in a more strict adherence to the school law. It is not asserted that there is any intentional interference with Protestant children, but if it has sometimes happened that they have used books which are distinctively Catholic, they can easily find redress under the clauses of the School Act which do not permit any children to receive religious instruction which is objected to by their parents.

The Commissioners state that in 57 of the schools religious education is given during school hours. It is given before or after school hours in 23 schools, and in 18 there is no religious instruction given.

In the case where religious instruction is given out of school hours, there is no violation of the school laws, either in spirit or in the letter, inasmuch as the law provides for this being done.

When such instruction is given during school hours, the letter of the law is of course violated, but as in those cases there are usually no Protestant children in attendance, there is, at all events, no violence done to the religious convictions of any one.

We presume that the County Inspectors tolerate the practice because the people of the localities desire it to be continued.

Of course, the trustees can, in such cases, obey the strict letter of the law by making such arrangements that the religious teaching shall be given out of school hours, but it would not be wise to throw difficulties in the way of imparting religious teaching.

The Commissioners state that "the prominence given to the Roman Catholic religion in these schools is objectionable to the English speaking Protestants generally," but they also state that wherever there is any cause of complaint in this respect, "it is only necessary that the schools be brought into harmony with the law."

With the recommendation of the Commissioners that "a special school should be established for the training of French teachers in the English language," we cordially agree; and that special institutes should be held "for the benefit of the teachers now employed in the French schools." Hitherto there have been no opportunities afforded to French teachers, and the trustees of the French schools are rather deserving of praise for the efforts they have made under great difficulty to supply their schools with efficient teachers, than that any effort should be made to increase their difficulty by putting additional obstacles in their way.

On the whole, the report of the Commissioners is highly creditable to the French schools of

Ontario, and even in the matter of English teaching, it has been shown that there has been as much progress made as could reasonably be expected in the difficult position in which the trustees were placed.

The Commissioners say: "There can be no question as to the fact that in all the French schools in the several counties visited, notwithstanding particular cases of backwardness or inefficiency, an effort is being made to impart a knowledge of the English language, and not only so, but this work is receiving a larger amount of attention at present than in former years.

There are some of these schools in which English has been well taught for many years, so that they are practically English schools.

There are also some, as will be seen from the statistical statement forming part of this report, in which the English language is largely used in the work of the school.

This is the case more particularly in the counties of Essex and Kent."

The report of the Commission has proved that there was no foundation for the senseless outcry which was raised by the Francophobes against the French schools.

THE DUAL LANGUAGE QUESTION.

Mr. Attorney General Martin, of Manitoba, is said to have stated in Ottawa that the Government of Manitoba intend to abolish the French as an official language on the twofold ground of "not supporting a foreign tongue and to save expense."

The Government have already stopped the publication of the official Gazette in French, but this step appears to be at least premature.

French is by the Constitution an official language of the Province, and the non-publication of notices in legal form will endanger the validity of all public Acts which require official notice of them to be given.

The supporters in Ontario and Manitoba of Mr. Greenway's course maintain that there is no more reason for the retention of French as an official language than for the establishment of German in the same category.

German is essentially a foreign language in the Dominion, and there can be no reason why it should be recognized as an official language in any Province, but it is not so with French.

French is the language of one of the Provinces, the second in importance in the Dominion, and though the general language of the Dominion is English, the right of French to an official recognition is derived from the perfect equality between French and English speaking Canadians, which was guaranteed by treaty in the Act by which Canada was ceded to England.

It is the fact that the French-Canadian fellow-citizens who are agitating for the abolition of French as an official language in Manitoba. The spirit which animates them is the desire to create discord and dissension between Canadians of the two nationalities and to have a miserable revenge for their utter discomfiture on the question of the Jesuits' Estates Act.

They did not succeed in getting the Dominion Government and the Governor-General to insult 42 per cent. of the population of Canada by virtually stamping upon an illustrious and virtuous order of priests an unmerited stigma, so they desire to take revenge on the French-Canadians in some form.

These fanatics endeavor to make it appear that the rights which Catholics, French or Irish, have in Canada are concessions which they have kindly granted us, but of which they are perfectly at liberty to deprive us at will.

It may be said, as a French writer said of popular rights in France: "What they call their concessions are our conquests, what they call our encroachments are our rights."

When French and English were made the official languages in Manitoba, the French population preponderated, and if this had continued to be the case in the Province, the English speaking population would, undoubtedly, urge now the terms of the Constitution as a reason for the preservation of English in that capacity, but as English predominates now, the fanatics have the opportunity to display the vindictive spirit which animates them.

If the Constitution of Canada is to be interfered with for the purpose of abolishing French in Manitoba, there is not the least doubt that French will have to become the sole official language of Quebec.

The fanatics are very willing to urge on the people of Manitoba to take this retaliatory measure, but when they are reminded that vindictive measures are sure to result in retaliation they become very angry.

We speak of retaliation. It is only fair to say that we believe that the people of Quebec are too fair minded and liberal to adopt retaliatory measures, simply as such.

A Catholic people is not often influenced by such unworthy motives, and the liberality of the people of Quebec is manifest in the fact, which is but one of many, that there are no less than twelve Protestant members in the Quebec Legislature, nearly all of whom have been elected in Catholic constituencies.

We do not believe, therefore, that