

system. The Catholics felt that a grievous wrong had been done them, and immediately set about to find a remedy for the great injustice.

Three ways lay open to them. 1st. To petition the Federal Government that the Act be disallowed. 2nd. To have the action of the Manitoba legislature declared *ultra vires* by the courts, and 3rd. To make an appeal to the Governor-General-in-Council, on the plea of an aggrieved minority.

They chose the second, because they felt, that while the phraseology of the British North America Act, might be vague, yet they knew that the spirit which prompted the Act, that the statesmen who drew up the Act, were not only favorable to, but actually intended that the catholic people should be insured in the possession of their separate schools.

The case was brought before the Supreme Court of Canada, where the contention of the Catholic minority was upheld, but on further appeal to the Privy Council of England, this decision was reversed.

Yet the Catholics did not despair. They knew that in jurisdiction the provincial legislatures are limited; they knew that the federal parliament is empowered to legislate in favor of an aggrieved minority, and they in consequence addressed a memorial to the Governor-General-in-Council, praying intervention in their behalf.

The Government doubted its power to interfere, and referred the case to the courts for decision.

The Supreme Court of Canada decided that the Governor-General-in-Council, was not empowered to interfere, but on appeal to the Privy Council of England, this decision was reversed, and a plan of relief suggested.

By the decision of the Privy Council, not only was the existence of a grievance asserted, but the Federal Government was empowered to legislate in behalf of the aggrieved minority, in case the Manitoba Government should refuse to act.

In pursuance of this decision a memorial was addressed to the Manitoba Government, in which the Federal authorities solicited the good offices of the province in remedying the existing grievance. But Manitoba still refused to modify the law, and then the "Remedial Bill" was introduced in the Federal Parliament. Before this bill could be passed, parliament expired by lapse of time, and the question was thrown into the arena of federal politics. The federal elections were held, and the Opposition, under the leadership of Mr. Laurier, was returned to power. Negotiations were now begun between the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba, with the result that a so-called compromise was arrived at. But this compromise had the novelty of being wholly one-sided, because the Catholic minority, the most interested party, was politely excluded from all the conferences which led to the alleged settlement.

This compromise was not a restitution of the rights violated, "it was not even an improvement that might conciliate with the prescriptions so formal in this matter. The episcopate did not approve of it; they could not approve of it. They declared it unacceptable, and the Catholics of Manitoba continued to support their own schools at the cost of the greatest sacrifice." The situation was becoming daily more acute. The Catholic people of the