

C O P Y

SHARP, MILNE & CO.,

511-514 Power Building

Montreal April 23rd, 1930.

The Hon. Walter Mitchell,
Messrs. Laflamme, Mitchell & Kearney,
276 St. James St.,
Montreal.

Dear Sir: Re: City of Verdun Protestant Schools Deficit

You will recall the united protest made by all the eleven Protestant School Municipalities against the proposed legislation which was to be enacted to take care of the deficits of the City of Verdun. The working out of this legislation for the year ending June 1929 according to the report of the Montreal Protestant Central School Board just received, shows as follows:

Revenue City of Verdun \$70,114. Expenditures \$267,893. Deficit \$197,779.

The deficit under the legislation (put through despite the united protest of all of the Protestant School Boards affected by the legislation) was borne practically as follows:

City of Westmount Revenue \$530,310, Expenditures \$320,381, Contribution to School Municipalities' deficit \$209,929.

City of Montreal Revenue \$2,700,533, Expenditures \$2,613,504, Contribution to School Municipalities' Deficit \$87,029.

From the above figures it seems that the legislation has had the effect of forcing the citizens of Westmount not only to bear an amount equal to the whole of the deficit of the City of Verdun but also \$12,150 in excess.

Without question, nor is it anywhere denied, the deficit in Verdun arises from the erroneous principle of taxing residence property on the basis of ownership rather than on the basis of occupancy. The latter method would give some indication as to the class of children to be educated. But Westmount is penalized because of another error which arises from the fact that none of the Municipalities concerned uses the same basis for valuating property. I was personally informed by one member of the Commission that this oversight would be adjusted but it has never been done.

I am satisfied that had the members of the Special Committee foreseen that the result of their recommendation would have penalized the City of Westmount to the extent that they would be taxed beyond the re-