

I was, moreover, furnished with a copy of the proclamation issued by His Excellency on the 6th December, 1869, which I attach to this as Appendix C. In this proclamation we read: "Her Majesty commands me to state to you that she will be always ready through me as Her Representative, to redress all well-founded grievances," and any complaints that may be made, or desires that may be expressed to me as Governor General. By Her Majesty's authority, I do therefore assure you that "on your union with Canada, all your civil and religious rights and privileges will be respected."

A delegation from Red River had been proposed as a good means of giving and receiving explanations conducive to the pacification of the country. The desirability of this step was urged upon me as of the greatest importance, and the Premier of Canada in a letter I attach to this as Appendix B wrote to me. "In case a delegation is appointed to proceed to Ottawa, you can assure them that they will be kindly received and their suggestions fully considered. Their expenses coming here and returning and while staying in Ottawa will be defrayed by us."

I left after having received the above-mentioned instructions, and reached St. Boniface on the 9th March, 1870.

I communicated to the dissatisfied the assurances I had received, showing them the documents above cited. This largely contributed to dispel fears and to restore confidence. The delegation which had been delayed was definitely decided upon. The delegates appointed several weeks before received their commission afresh. They proceeded to Ottawa; opened negotiations with the federal authorities, and with such result that on the 3rd of May, 1870, Sir John Young telegraphed to Lord Granville: "Negotiations with delegates closed satisfactorily."

The negotiations provided that the denominational or separate schools will be guaranteed to the minority of the new Province of Manitoba; the French language received such recognition that it was decided it would be used officially both in parliament and in the courts of Manitoba.

The Manitoba Act was then passed by the House of Commons and Senate of Canada, and sanctioned by the Governor General.

The said Act received the supreme sanction of the Imperial Parliament, which thus took under its own safeguard the rights and privileges conferred by it.

I take the liberty to here cite most of the two clauses relating to denominational schools and official use of the French language.

*Clause 22.*—"In and for the province, the said legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to the following: '10. Nothing in such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law or practice in the province at the union.' '20. An appeal shall lie to the Governor General in Council from any Act or decision of the Legislature of the province, or any other provincial authority affecting any right or privilege of the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority of the Queen's subjects in relation to education.'"

*Clause 23.*—"Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the Houses of the Legislature, and both those languages shall be used in the respective records and journals of those houses, and either of these languages may be used by any person, or in any pleading or process in or issuing from any court of Canada established under the British North America Act, 1867, or in or from all or any of the courts of the province. The Acts of the Legislature shall be printed and published in both these languages."

According to the provisions above mentioned, the Legislature of Manitoba always recognized the Catholic schools as an integral part of the educational system of the province. The use of the French language met with the same recognition. Everything went on smoothly and harmoniously in that respect since the establishment of the province, until a few months ago.

Without stating any fair reason for the change, and without any public movement to determine it, the provincial cabinet of Mr. Greenway has brought before the Legislature and secured the passing of Acts of such a radical character against