

MONTREAL, 18th October, 1894.

To the Honourable John Costigan, Secretary of State, Ottawa.

HONOURABLE SIR,—I have been requested to forward to you the inclosed petitions.

Believe me, honourable sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. ISRAEL TARTE.

(Translation.)

To His Excellency The Governor General in Council :

The petition of the undersigned British and loyal subjects of Her Majesty respectfully shewth :

1. That at the time of the admission of Manitoba into confederation, it was expressly understood that the new province would have a system of separate schools, based upon the then existing and still existing system of Protestant schools in the province of Quebec.

2. That conformably to this understanding and to the legislative enactments which followed it, separate schools were established in 1871, and remained in existence until 1890.

3. That the majority of the legislature of Manitoba, violating the liberties and rights of the minority, abolished the said schools and substituted thereto a system of public schools, in contravention to the clear understanding which had been come to and which had been officially recognized for twenty years.

4. That the prerogative of disallowance which might have been exercised with regard to the legislation of Manitoba upon the subject of schools was not exercised, although on several occasions in cases of less importance the Governor General in Council exercised said prerogative.

5. That the references, at the instance of Your Excellency in Council, made to the courts, had not had the effect of redressing the wrongs of which the Roman Catholic population of Manitoba rightly complain.

6. That the appeals made to Your Excellency do not deprive Your Excellency of any of the rights which Your Excellency possesses to hear the appeal of a minority and to take such measures so as to remove the wrongs which such minority suffers.

7. That in 1894, the legislature of the province of Manitoba enacted laws essentially affecting the rights of Catholics.

8. That said laws were transmitted to Your Excellency at the beginning of March last.

9. That the legislature of the North-west Territories has peremptorily refused to amend ordinance 22 which prejudicially affects the rights of the Roman Catholics living in the Territories.

Therefore your petitioners pray Your Excellency in Council to be pleased to :

1. To disallow the Act of the legislature of Manitoba, 57 Victoria, chapter 28 (1894) and intituled : " An Act to amend the Public Schools Act."

2. To give such instructions and take such measures that Your Excellency in Council will think the most apt to redress the wrongs which the Roman Catholics of Manitoba now suffer in consequence of the school laws passed by the Manitoba legislature in 1890.

3. To communicate again with the Lieutenant Governor of the Territories, so that the ordinances may be amended in such a manner that the wrongs of which the Catholics of the North-west complain and which are the result of the ordinance No. 22, sanctioned at Regina the 31st December, 1892, may be redressed.