

PETITION FOR A MEDICAL COMMISSION.

P. C. 2020.

[Translation].

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONORABLE HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY-FITZMAURICE, MARQUIS OF
LANSDOWNE, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, &C., &C., &C.

The Petition of F. X. Lemieux, advocate, of the city of Quebec,

Humbly represents :

That he has acted as one of the Counsel of Louis Riel, accused and convicted of the crime of high treason, at Regina, during the course of the month of August last ;

That at the time of the trial of Louis Riel it was established that the latter had already been confined for insanity in certain lunatic asylums viz ; in 1874 in the Longue-Pointe asylum, at Montreal in 1876, at the Beauport asylum, Quebec in 1879, in a lunatic asylum at Washington, United States.

That credible witnesses, amongst whom Revd. Fathers André and Fourmond and Hon. Charles Nolin, and others, have proved, at the trial, that Louis Riel, had before, during and after the rising in the North-West, to their own knowledge, given sure and positive evidence of insanity by his deeds, words and general behaviour and that they truly believed that Riel was not responsible for his actions during the time already mentioned.

That this evidence of the insanity of Riel has been corroborated and strengthened by the testimony of two lunacy physicians, Messrs Roy of Quebec and Clarke of Toronto.

That Dr Roy has, moreover declared that Riel had been under his immediate care during the eighteen months for which he had been confined at Beauport and that Riel was then suffering from a mental disorder, or ambitious Monomania called Megalomania ; that from Louis Riel's antecedents, the evidence made of insane actions and the examination of the accused at the time of his trial, Dr Roy has sworn that he verily believed that Riel was insane and incapable of discerning right from wrong.

That Dr Clarke has declared under oath that for the same reasons as those used by Dr. Roy, he was of opinion that Riel was a monomaniac and that he was suffering from a mental disorder which rendered him incapable of discerning right from wrong, but that, inasmuch, as he had never seen Riel before the time of the trial, it would have been necessary for him to examine the patient during perhaps a couple of months, in order to enable him to make an exact report as to his mental condition.

That this insanity has been so much proved that the jury have been impressed by proof which has been made of it, to such an extent that they recommended Riel to the clemency of the Court.

That your petition has been informed in a credible manner, that since the verdict has been given, the insanity and mania of Riel have considerably increased, and that he is actually insane and uncontrollable.

Your petitioner, therefore humbly prays that Your Excellency be pleased to appoint a medical commission composed of specialists and alienists, whose duty it will be to examine the said Louis Riel, actually detained in Regina, in the mounted police military camp, and to ascertain the state of mind and mental condition of the said Louis Riel and to report to the authorities accordingly.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

(Signed,)

F. X. LEMIEUX,
Attorney for Louis Riel.