

westerly, easterly, and northerly. The Premier told Mr. Rogers that the request to extend the boundary west had been refused by Sir John Macdonald in 1884, and that the reasons which moved the Macdonald government to deny the request then were much stronger now in as much as the territory westward had now a settled population and, in addition, they had received a copy of the resolution of the Northwest Assembly protesting against it. With regard to the extension northerly to Hudson Bay Sir Wilfrid informed the delegates that he did not know that there was any objection to extending the boundaries northward so as to include a portion of the north part of the District of Saskatchewan but before action was taken in regard to that, Sir William Mulock, who was present, objected on the part of Ontario. Finally, Sir Wilfrid promised to give the delegates an answer at an early day. With Mr. Rogers on the floor of the House the government's answer was given four days later upon the introduction of the Autonomy Bill in the House. Premier Laurier stated then that the boundaries of Manitoba could not be extended westerly but they reserved the territory to the north for future consideration, and to allow for a conference between Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the new province of Saskatchewan. Afterwards it was decided to drop Quebec and to limit the conference to Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Mr. Rogers states that he wrote a letter dated Feb. 23, which reads as follows:

"Russell House, Ottawa, Ont.,

"Feb. 23, 1905.

"Sir—As we find it necessary to leave Ottawa tomorrow, we desire to refer to our interview of Friday, the 17th, respecting Manitoba's claims for the extension of her boundaries westward and northward, when you were good enough to suggest that if we would remain here for three or four days you would then be in a position to give us an answer respecting the same. Up to the present time, however, we have heard nothing farther from you, excepting your statement in Parliament on Tuesday last, when introducing your autonomy bills, which we presume represents your

fixed and final decision as to our western boundary. In view of Manitoba's very strong claims as presented to you in the memorial unanimously passed by our Legislature, and supported and supplemented in our interview, we must, in behalf of the Province, confirm our protest against the decision in refusing to grant the prayer of our request, the extension of our boundaries westward, and exceedingly regret that apparently local considerations have deprived Manitoba of what she rightfully regards as a most just claim. Respecting the extension northward, we most respectfully urge upon you that this should engage your consideration and attention during the present session. We, of course, emphatically deny the right of Quebec and Ontario having anything to say in respect to the extension of our boundaries to James Bay, or that if they could advance any claim worthy of consideration that would necessitate delay in attaching this territory immediately to our Province. We regard this as exclusively a matter for settlement between your Government and Manitoba. We sincerely trust that upon further consideration you may see your way clear to grant the request we make on behalf of an united Province. Yours faithfully, R. Rogers, C. E. Campbell.

This letter by some mischance or for some unknown reason Sir Wilfrid Laurier never received. It was given to a messenger.

Mr. Rogers states that he and Mr. Campbell both accepted the invitation of the Papal Alegate to confer with him at his residence. What took two ministers of the Crown to the door of the Papal Alegate, it is for them to explain. What induced them to enter into secret negotiations with the representative of the Pope in this country, with respect to education, they must also explain. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that he first learned of their conference with Mgr. Sbarretti and what is alleged to have taken place, from the daily press of five weeks later. Mr. Rogers stated that Mgr. Sbarretti told them that the failure of Manitoba to restore the separate schools there had in the past in-