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CANADA.

No. 7.

(No. 217.)

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from EARL GREY to the Right Honourable the EARL of ELGIN and KINCARDINE.

MY LORD,

Downing-street, May 27, 1848.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's Despatch (No. 22) of the 2nd of March last, in which you call my attention to the joint address from the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada to the Queen (enclosed in Lord Metcalfe's Despatch, No. 227, of March 8, 1845), and to Mr. Gladstone's Despatch (No. 20) of February 3, 1846, on the subject of rescinding that part of the Act for the re-union of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, which enjoins the exclusive use of the English language in the legislative records of the provincial Parliament.

I have to assure your Lordship that her Majesty's Government were not unmindful of this address of the legislative bodies of Canada, or of the pledge conveyed in the Despatch of my predecessor above referred to, when the Civil List Bill was under their consideration last year; but as it appeared that in the passage of that Bill through the Provincial Legislature the objection to the exclusive use of the English language was not adverted to, I was induced to hope that a further experience of the existing law might have led to the conclusion that it might be allowed to continue unaltered without any serious inconvenience, and as I cannot disguise from your Lordship that it is not entirely without reluctance that her Majesty's present advisers will propose the desired alteration in the Re-union Act, I willingly availed myself of the silence of your Lordship and of the Provincial Legislature to omit doing so when the amendment of the Act with respect to the Civil List was brought before Parliament. As, however, it now appears that the wishes of the Provincial Legislature and the inhabitants of Canada are unaltered and unanimous in favour of the proposed change, and as the subject is one exclusively of internal and domestic concern, her Majesty's Government feel that whatever may be their own opinion as to what would be really best for the permanent interests of the province, they could not with propriety offer any objection to the accomplishment of an object so generally desired by the inhabitants at large, and which has been recommended by your Lordship as well as by both your predecessors in the Government. A Bill will therefore be forthwith submitted to Parliament to repeal so much of the Act of Re-union as relates to the disuse of the French language in the legislative records of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of
Elgin and Kincardine,
&c. &c.

(No. 51.)

No. 8.

No. 8

The Right Honourable the EARL of ELGIN and KINCARDINE to EARL GREY.

MY LORD,

Government House, Montreal, May 3, 1848.
(Received May 23, 1848.)

I HAVE much satisfaction in calling your Lordship's attention to the gratifying representation of the state of public feeling in this province contained in the enclosed extract from the Presentment of the Grand Jury of the Court of Quarter Sessions held in this city at the close of the last month.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) ELGIN and KINCARDINE.
&c. &c.