



Hon. Senator Bernier's GREAT SPEECH

as reported in THE SENATE DEBATES
(Continued.)

I hope the House will pardon me for keeping the floor so long. As one of the sufferers, as one coming from the province where the trouble arose, as one of the representatives of the minority, I am in duty bound to raise my voice here to uphold our claims and to vindicate the constitution. Do not believe that we demand for our church special privileges, do not believe that we want to put ourselves out of reach of the government action; do not believe that we intend to raise a generation of citizens hostile to British institutions. Our loyalty to our church does not impair our loyalty to the Crown. As was plainly said last night by the illustrious representative of the still more illustrious Pontiff Leo XIII., our loyalty to the Crown and to British institutions goes hand in hand with our loyalty to our church.

True, our grievances are the occasion of this battle, but we feel at the same time that we are not fighting for ourselves only. Surely we are fighting for the souls of our children, but we are fighting also for the constitutional privileges of every province in this Dominion, we are fighting for the preservation of Christian rule in our country. The present crisis has more than a local importance. It seems to me that we are on the verge of a decided step in the social movement in this Canada of ours. Shall Christianity be the rule in this country or not? It shall not be the rule unless positive Christianity is taught in the schools. If it is not taught, we will follow the decline in that respect which all right thinkers observe in the country south of us where fully one-third of the population are in the deep sea of infidelity. Such were the fears of the Duke of Argyll when, speaking on Australian matters in the house of Lords in 1891, he paid to the Roman Catholics this glorious compliment, though himself a Presbyterian:

The Catholics had the high honour of standing alone and refusing to pull down in their schools the everlasting standard of conscience. This resistance on the part of the Roman Catholics, I believe, may be the germ of a strong reaction against the pure secularism, which I venture to call pure paganism, of the education of the colony.

Half an hour of religious instruction in the class-room, after school hours will not answer that purpose. It will rather emphasize, for the present, the pure secularism, or pure paganism of the school system, and lead in the future to the entire removal from the school premises, and from the mind of generations to come, of all vestige of Christianity.

What the Catholics want is not only instruction, but they want true education.

To educate a child is not only to adorn his intellect, but it is also to form his character, to cultivate the aspirations of his heart and of his soul. This cannot be done unless the atmosphere of the school is permeated with Christian thoughts. It does not follow that, as is so often said with respect to Catholic schools, nothing but religious instruction must be given in schools. But, for Catholics, it means that the school work

must be opened and closed with Catholic prayers. It means that the teacher may, during the school hours, and in a Catholic sense, refer to the Saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary. It means that in teaching how to read, the teacher must be allowed to tell the young child, that at all times, in his old days as in his younger days, he must not sully his soul by immoral readings. It means that the teacher of grammar must have the right to tell the child that the language which he is learning must be used at all times for the defence of the truth. It means that in teaching arithmetic the teacher must be allowed to tell the child that God has created everything with number, weight and measure. It means that in teaching geography the teacher must be allowed at least to tell the child that the first missionaries in Manitoba were Catholic priests, who went there at the request of Lord Selkirk, and who did good work for the christianization of that country. It means that in teaching history, the teacher must be allowed to point out to his children the action of God in human events; and so on with all the branches of knowledge. It means also that when disciplinary measures have to be resorted to, the teacher must be allowed to appeal to the Christian sentiments of the child rather than to brute force, civil law, or the law of nature only.

Catholic education is an education where, while teaching all secular subjects, the thought of God is allowed to penetrate all the inner parts of the child's mind, as pure beams of the sun, so that he may learn everything with a view of becoming a good citizen and a good Christian. This does not occasion any undue waste of time on the part of the teacher or of the child. A mere look sometimes upon the walls of the school-house, where are appended Christian emblems, is all that is required. That is briefly the Catholic conception of a school. There is nothing in that to which objection can be taken, even from a pure human or civic point of view. In fighting for that conception we are but fighting for our rights, for the constitution, for our country, for the Crown, for Christianity, and with the grace of God I hope the minority of Manitoba will never fail in this sacred duty.

[The End.]

Papal Delegate.

MGR. MERRY DEL VAL
ARRIVES IN THE CITY.

A VERY WARM WELCOME.

Address and Replies.

From the Free Press.

His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Merry del Val, arrived in the city on Saturday, and received a most imposing welcome from the Catholics of Winnipeg and St. Boniface. He travelled from Ottawa in a special car, placed at his disposal by the Canadian Pacific Railway company, and was accompanied by his secretary, the Rev. Father Tampieri, and for a portion of the journey by Vicar-General Allard, Father Cherrier and Father George, O. M. I., who

met him at Rat Portage. When the train steamed into the depot here the platform was literally thronged with people, all of whom were evidently anxious to have a part in welcoming the distinguished churchman, who has filled so prominent a place in the public mind for the past month or two, amongst the crowd being His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, with many of his clergy, and most of the leading Catholic laity. As the Delegate stepped from the train he was received by the Archbishop, who immediately introduced him to the clergymen and others close at hand, and a lane was made through which his Excellency made his way, bowing courteously, in response to the salutations he received. He was escorted to a carriage drawn by four horses; and having taken his seat there in company with the Archbishop, Mr. N. Bawlf, and Mr. Bleau, pro-mayor of St. Boniface, a gigantic procession was formed, composed of scores of vehicles containing those who had assembled at the depot, and a start was made for St. Boniface. Rarely has a more imposing demonstration been witnessed in this city, and as the procession made its way up Main Street business of all kinds was practically suspended. On reaching Broadway bridge the bells of the cathedral were heard ringing out a joyous peal of welcome, mingled with the stirring strains of the Industrial school band. It was noticed, too, that flags were flying from almost all the buildings, and the town was otherwise gaily decorated with bunting and green foliage, while the whole population who had not gone to the depot, including the inmates of the various institutions, lined the roadway and gave his excellency a respectful welcome. Arrived at the cathedral the party were met at the door by the parish priest, Father Messier, and assistant clergy, with acolytes and cross bearer, and conducted to the sanctuary. The sacred edifice was hardly able to contain the crowd which sought admission, and as the grand music of a noble hymn of thanksgiving arose, and the responses were chanted by the priests who officiated, the scene was a most impressive one. After a short service His Excellency took a seat facing the congregation, and His Grace, the Archbishop stepped forward and read an address of welcome for himself and clergy. This finished, Mr. Bleau read an address on behalf of the citizens of St. Boniface, the main points of which were a historical sketch of the work of the church in Manitoba, a profession of faith, with a hearty protestation of humble submission to the Pope and his representative, and the expression of the hope that through the intervention of the delegate the mists which now surround the educational question in this province might be cleared away and the sun of right and justice shine forth.

Mr. Philip Marrin, who since 1890, has filled the arduous position of secretary-treasurer of the Winnipeg Catholic school trustees, then advanced to the sanctuary rails and read the following address in English:

To His Excellency Mgr. Merry del Val: May it please Your Excellency,—The English-speaking Catholics of the province of Manitoba gratefully take advantage of the earliest opportunity to respect-

fully and reverently approach Your Excellency for the purpose of assuring you of the deep joy with which we hail your visit here, and of our unalterable devotion both to the office and person of our Holy Father the Pope, whose representative you are. Since the news that you were coming to Canada first reached us we have longingly looked forward to the happy day when it would be no proud privilege to meet and welcome you and it is difficult to find words sufficiently expressive in which to speak of the intensity of our feelings on this auspicious occasion. We are a comparatively small and very humble portion of the immense flock over which our Holy Father rules with such conspicuous care and solicitude, but in all humility we dare to say that nowhere could be found children of the church more zealously and fervently devoted to the Holy See or more anxious to do their full duty as members of the Catholic body. These being the sentiments most deeply rooted in our hearts and our minds, we shall always hold it as one of the very greatest privileges we have ever been or ever could be accorded, that on this day we have been permitted to meet so distinguished a Churchman as Your Excellency and one so closely connected with our chief pastor.

But whilst for these reasons we are filled with joy on account of your visit there are special circumstances of our case which tend to intensify our feelings and in consideration of which your presence here animates us with bright hopes for the future. These circumstances are well known to Your Excellency and we realize that this is neither the time nor the place to enter into details, but at the same time we think it, not inopportune that we should assure you that in striving by every lawful means in our power to regain the privileges which until seven years ago we enjoyed in the matter of education, we have been actuated by but one motive and that has been to do our whole duty as Catholics. In common with all loyal children of the church the world over we have been deeply impressed with the fact that it is our imperative duty to secure for the rising generation the benefits of sound Catholic education, and whilst desiring to live in harmony with our fellow citizens of all creeds and nationalities we have not been able in conscience to give up for the sake of peace the inestimable boon of Catholic training. We are therefore confident that we were complying with the precepts of our holy religion as well as the dictates of our consciences, joyfully and gladly followed our bishop and clergy in the efforts they have made, not only to keep open our schools, but also to secure from the state that measure of justice to which we are entitled. In this connection we desire most earnestly to assure Your Excellency that in the future as in the past we intend to remain devoted though humble members of the flock, united with our beloved archbishop and his zealous priests loyally accepting the teachings of the church and the directions of the Holy Father, always ready to listen to the voice of authority and obey its commands, hoping thereby to make ourselves the more worthy of the grace which has been granted us of being members of the one true church, and trusting at the same time to leave behind us a generation which shall keep the lamp of faith burning brightly in the country and which in its turn will transmit to posterity the truth pure and undefiled.

These being our aspirations, we are, we repeat, filled with gratitude and animated with hope on account of Your Excellency's visit. We look upon your coming here as one more proof of the marvellous oversight which our illustrious Pontiff has over his flock in all parts of the fold, and of how wonderfully united are even the humblest children of the church with their chief pastor, who is the Vicar of Christ on earth. This is a thought which sends a thrill through every Catholic heart, and we assure Your Excellency that we fully appreciate how grateful we should be.

For yourself personally we respectfully desire to repeat that we entertain the most profound veneration and regard, and we shall ever pray that you may long be spared to aid in spreading

and strengthening and directing Christ's kingdom on earth.

Signed on behalf of the English speaking Catholics.

N. BAWLF,
Chairman of Committee,

J. A. MCINNIS,
Secretary.

His Excellency listened to all the addresses with the greatest attention and when the last one was finished he rose and made an eloquent reply in French to those presented by the clergy and the citizens of St. Boniface. Then, in the purest of English, He said:

"I cannot allow the address which has been presented in the name of the English-speaking Catholics of Manitoba to pass unnoticed. I wish to express my most grateful thanks for the words of welcome which have been uttered in their name, and I desire too, to assure the English-speaking Catholics of Manitoba of the great consolation I derive from the fact that they join hands with their French Canadian countrymen in telling me and therefore in telling our Holy Father whom I represent here, that they are ready to accept any direction that He may be pleased to give them. You may rest assured that our Holy Father will never forfeit anything that is necessary for Catholic education or for safeguarding Catholic principles. Principles are the same in Canada as in Europe and the Holy Father has given such proof of His interest in Catholic education as should suffice to give you confidence and make you look to the future with hope and trust. Be sure that He will watch over your interests, be sure, too, you may follow His guidance without fear. It is difficult for me to believe that in this great country in which we are accustomed to hear that views are as broad and as widespread as the horizon which we contemplate; it is difficult for one, I say, to believe that in this Country prejudices can be deep rooted enough to debar any section of the community from sharing in the privileges which should be the property of all. I ask you to give me the help of your prayers; to pray for our Holy Father that He may long be spared amongst us to rule the Church and also that we may increase in that beautiful loyalty and submission which, as you know, constitute the basis of our prosperity, and which insure always the progress of the Catholic church throughout the world. Let us conclude by wishing for every blessing upon you in the name of our Holy Father, for yourselves and your families."

His Excellency then solemnly blessed the congregation, and the proceedings at the cathedral were brought to a close.

Reception by School Children.

On Sunday afternoon the delegate was tendered a reception by the school children, and the occasion was taken advantage of by the Catholic societies to make a great demonstration of their loyalty to the holy see, and their respect for its representative. The members of the Winnipeg societies assembled in their hall in the McIntyre block, and, headed by the Citizens' band, marched to St. Boniface, where they were joined by the societies existing there, and the combined body escorted His Excellency to St. Mary's church. The route of the procession was by way of Main street, Portage avenue and Hargrave street, and the streets were lined by interested spectators.

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