

The Governor-General's advisers, having fully considered the Despatch and his Excellency's minute, desire to state that after anxious consideration they adhere to the advice previously tendered to him by the undersigned on their behalf for the removal of Lieutenant-Governor Letellier. They have not failed to give full weight and due consideration to the support afforded in the Province of Quebec to M. Joly, and have given their special attention to the fifth, seventh, eighth, and ninth paragraphs of the Despatch as desired by his Excellency. This subject was fully considered by his Excellency's advisers immediately before the departure of Sir Leonard Tilley and Sir Charles Tupper for England. These gentlemen concurred with the rest of their colleagues in the opinion that in case the subject should be referred back by Her Majesty's Government, the advice should be renewed; and this is therefore the unanimous advice of the Cabinet.

(Signed) JOHN A. MACDONALD.

TELEGRAM sent to Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD 23rd July 1879.

SHALL consent to act on advice given after reconsideration of case by Cabinet. Order in Council should be so drawn as to make clear sole responsibility of Cabinet for action taken.

(Signed) LORNE.

COPY of a REPORT of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council approved of by his Excellency the Governor-General on the 25th day of July 1879.

THE Committee of Council have had under consideration a memorandum, dated 23rd July 1879, from Sir John A. Macdonald, to whom was referred the Despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 3rd of July 1879, on the subject of the reference to Her Majesty of the recommendation made by your Excellency's advisers that Mr. Letellier, the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, should be removed from his office, reporting that on the 14th March 1879 the House of Commons of Canada passed the following resolution: "That the dismissal by the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec of his ministers on the 2nd day of March 1878, was under the circumstances unwise and subversive of the position accorded to the advisers of the Crown since the concession of the principle of responsible government to the British North American Colonies."

That a few days afterwards he, Sir John A. Macdonald, as first minister, waited on your Excellency and informed you that after the resolution of the Senate in the last session of Parliament, and the resolution of the House of Commons just referred to, it was the opinion of your Excellency's advisers that the usefulness of Mr. Letellier as Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec was gone, and they advised that in the public interest it was expedient that he should be removed from office. That your Excellency was thereupon pleased to state that as the federal system introduced by the British North American Act of 1867 was until then unknown in Great Britain or her Colonies, there were no precedents to guide us; that the decision on the present case would settle for the future the relations between the Dominion and Provincial Governments as far as the office of Lieutenant-Governor is concerned, and that your Excellency therefore deemed it expedient to submit the advice tendered to you, and the whole case, with all the attendant circumstances, to Her Majesty's Government for their consideration and instructions.

That this decision of your Excellency was made with the assent of the Cabinet, who then assumed and still assume the responsibility of the reference.

That he begs further to state that the Despatch from the Secretary for the Colonies has been carefully reconsidered, and that it is the decided and sustained opinion of your Excellency's ministers that it is expedient and necessary that Mr. Letellier should be removed from his office of Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec.

He further begs to report that the cause to be assigned for such removal according to the provisions of the 59th section of the British North American Act, 1867, is that after the vote of the House of Commons during last session and that of the Senate during the previous session Mr. Letellier's usefulness as a Lieutenant-Governor was gone.