

The existence of every wrong implies the right to remedy and redress; and in the case under consideration, should the Government upon whom the duty is primarily thrown evade the issue by appealing to the Country without action or a declared policy, no matter how excellent their intentions may be, they will then practically have abdicated their functions and have asked those in sympathy with the Manitoba minority to take a leap in the dark regardless of what lies before them or in what bog they may land and leave the people of Canada to decide the matter for themselves. It will then, I submit, behoove the electors of Glengarry to return to Parliament a man pledged to the principle I have endeavored to enunciate, and who will support it not only by his vote but by his voice, his energy, his time, influence and such ability, however humble it may be, with which his Creator has endowed him

I will ask the Electors of Glengarry to emphasize that principle so that it may be understood for all time so far as we are concerned, that our people are fair minded and just, that intolerance or oppression shall not be permitted in any portion of the Dominion, and that the minorities in the several Provinces will be protected in the enjoyment of their liberties and undoubted rights, whether they be Protestants in the Province of Quebec or Catholics elsewhere throughout the Dominion.

In conclusion, let me call your attention to these facts: That from Ottawa, the Capital of Canada, westward through the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, the North-West Territories and the Province of British Columbia to the Pacific coast, a section of Country containing a population of 992,519 people professing the Catholic religion, there is in the present Parliament but one solitary Catholic representative, Mr. Lariviere of Provencher, returned to champion the cause of the oppressed minority; while to show how fair-minded and just are the Catholics where they are in the majority, there are in the Province of Quebec, outside of Montreal, eleven Protestant gentlemen returned to a Protestant population of 148,273, to attend to the interests and just claims of their co-religionists and compatriots. In the Province of Ontario, with 858,300 of a Catholic population, but three gentlemen of that persuasion sit in Parliament (all of them from east of the Capital), viz.: Messrs Bergin of Cornwall, Proulx of Prescott and Robillard of Ottawa. In this very County of Glengarry, with a population of 9,989 Protestants and 12,464 Catholics, never once in the 28 years since Confederation has a Catholic been elected to the Provincial Legislature, and but two, Messrs. D. A. Macdonald and Purcell, to the Parliament of the Dominion, as against four, Messrs. McNabb, John McLennan, McMaster and R. R. McLennan, who are of another creed.

With some degree of reason and propriety, therefore, might a co-religionist of the oppressed Manitoba minority seek your suffrages at the coming election to a Parliament whose first and paramount duty will be to mete out to them that measure of justice denied to them by the majority in their own Province, and if necessary to enforce it by the strong arm of the law.

Pending action on the part of the Government I would suggest to the Electors to reserve judgment, making no promises, and until they hear what the candidates state openly upon the hustings. Private assurances in this case had better be entirely ignored as being worse than useless.

I am, Gentlemen, with great respect,

Your friend and faithful servant,

J. A. MACDONELL,

(Greenfield.)

February 13th, 1895.