

Manitoba School Case.

Rupert's Land was acquired by Canada, in the name and by the authority of Her Majesty that "respect and attention would be extended to the different religious persuasions, and that on their union with Canada, all their civil and religious rights and privileges would be respected." The memorialists add that "In the estimation of Catholics their religious rights are not respected and their religious persuasions are not treated with respect and attention when these difficulties thrown, by law, in the way of securing to their children an education conducted in accordance with their religious convictions."

The memorialists "repudiate the idea of interference with political parties, or with the direction of affairs purely political or temporal." They state that "Their sole object is to secure for the Catholics a protection needed for the accomplishment of their religious obligations," and that "It is in that view, and in that view only, that they petition His Excellency the Governor General in Council and ask the honourable members of the Senate and of the Commons of Canada of whatsoever party they may be, to help in a fair settlement of the actual difficulties;" and they pray:

First—For the disallowance of the Manitoba School Act of 1894.

Second—To give such directions and make such provisions for the relief of the Roman Catholics of the province of Manitoba as Your Excellency in Council may see fit, with regard to the Manitoba school laws of 1890.

Third—To communicate with the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories in order that, by amending ordinances, redress should be given to meet the grievances of which the Catholics of the North-west Territories complain on account of the Ordinance No. 22 of 1892.

The committee having taken all these matters into consideration, have the honour to recommend that a copy of the memorial above referred to, and also of this report, if approved, be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, with a request that he will lay the same before his advisers and before the legislature of that province, and that copies of the same be also sent to the Lieutenant Governor of the North-west Territories with the request that he will lay them before the executive Committee of the Territories, and the legislature thereof.

The committee beg to observe to Your Excellency that the statements which are contained in this memorial are matter of deep concern and solicitude in the interests of the Dominion at large, and that it is a matter of the utmost importance to the people of Canada that the laws which prevail in any portion of the Dominion should not be such as to occasion complaint of oppression or injustice to any class or portion of the people, but should be recognized as establishing perfect freedom and equality, especially in all matters relating to religion and religious belief and practice; and the Committee therefore humbly advise that Your Excellency may join with them in expressing the most earnest hope that the legislatures of Manitoba and of the North-west Territories respectively, may take into consideration at the earliest possible moment the complaints which are set forth in this petition, and which are said to create dissatisfaction among Roman Catholics, not only in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, but likewise throughout Canada, and may take speedy measures to give redress in all the matters in relation to which any well founded complaint or grievance be ascertained to exist.

The committee also advise that a copy of this report be sent to each of the memorialists.

All of which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.