

No. 15.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, K.T. to the RIGHT HON. SIR
MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART. (Received August 11, 1879.)

SIR,

Quebec, July 28, 1879.

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 9th of April 1879,* and your reply, of the 3rd of July 1879,† conveying the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the case of Mr. Letellier, the former Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, I have now the honour to transmit for your information :

1. A copy of the memorandum with which I referred your Despatch to my ministers.
2. Their reply, informing me that after careful and anxious consideration they adhered to their original decision that Mr. Letellier should be removed from his office of Lieutenant-Governor.
3. My assent to that decision conveyed by telegraph.
4. An approved Order in Council, based on the Resolution passed in the Dominion House of Commons on the 14th day of March 1879, recommending that Mr. Letellier be removed from his office of Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

LORNE,

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Governor-General.

&c.

&c.

&c.

MEMORANDUM to the PRIVY COUNCIL.

Citadel, Quebec, July 14, 1879.

The Governor-General having, with the assent of the Prime Minister, referred the question involved in the proposed removal from his office of Monsieur Letellier, the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, to the Imperial Government, herewith forwards for the consideration of the Cabinet a copy of the Despatch in which the Secretary of State for the Colonies gives the views of the Imperial Government.

The Cabinet will observe that the 39th section of the British North America Act is not held by the Imperial Government to confer on the Governor-General the individual right to maintain a Lieutenant-Governor in office.

The Governor-General is by the Despatch informed that in the view of Her Majesty's Government he would not be justified in departing "in this instance from the general rule, and declining to follow the decided and sustained opinion of his ministers."

He has, therefore, now to request the Cabinet to state if the opinion given by them to the effect that they advise the dismissal of the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec be still their decided opinion, and if that opinion be sustained after full weight and due consideration has been given by the Cabinet to the support afforded in the Province of Quebec to M. Joly, the minister who is by constitutional practice responsible for the action of the Lieutenant-Governor.

In requesting the Cabinet to reconsider their advice, the Governor-General asks that special attention be directed to the fifth paragraph, and those numbered seven, eight, and nine of the Despatch of the Secretary of State.

To the Despatch from Her Majesty's Government he desires to add nothing on his own part, the Cabinet having been already confidentially placed in possession of his views.

It is to be desired that the opinion of the Cabinet as reconsidered be assented to by all its members, and that the ministers now absent in England be communicated with by telegraph for this purpose.

MEMORANDUM from Sir JOHN MACDONALD to HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Ottawa, July 21, 1879.

THE undersigned, on behalf of himself and colleagues, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 3rd July instant, and of the memorandum addressed to the Privy Council from his Excellency with reference to it.