

means of a compensation equal to one-half of the value of one of the properties of the Jesuits bought with their own money. claimed and making counter offer.

"I submitted your letter to my colleagues, assembled in Council, and we came to the conclusion to answer you, as follows:

"1. Seeing the difficulties surrounding the settlement of this question and the situation of the Province, we are obliged with regret to say that we can not offer you more than \$400,000.00.

"2. To arrive at this figure we do not take as a basis the intrinsic value of the property, as the religious authorities long ago abandoned the claim for a restitution in kind, and invariably limited their claim to a compensation.

"The amount of this compensation was even indicated by the religious authorities of this country, at Rome, which authorities on several occasions declared themselves willing to accept \$400,000.

"3. It is therefore impossible for us to exceed that sum.

"We are ready to offer it to you upon the conditions contained in my letter of the 1st May last.

"4. Further, in commemoration of the settlement, we will retrocede to you the rights which the Government possesses in the Common of Laprairie.

"Such rights, small it is true, are, however, the same which the Jesuit Fathers reserved for themselves by the deed of concession to the inhabitants of Laprairie de la Madeleine, passed on the 19th May, 1694, before Mtre. Adhémar, royal notary of the Island of Montreal, less the few changes in such rights made by Acts of the Legislature.

"These are the offers which my colleagues charged me to make to you.

"Hoping that, under the circumstances above set forth, you may accept them.

"I have the honor to be

"Your very devoted,

"(Signed) HONORÉ MERCIER.

"Very Reverend Father TURGEON,

"Agent of the Holy See,

"Quebec, P.Q."

"Quebec, 8th June, 1888.

The Honorable HONORÉ MERCIER,

"Premier,

"Province of Quebec.

"Sir,

"In view of your letter of the 4th of June instant, declaring that it is impossible for the Government to offer more than \$400,000.00, and for the reasons given by you and the diffi- Acceptance by Rev. A. D. Turgeon of Mr. Mercier's counter offer.