

them, and I will go as far as they choose to direct me to do. It occurs to me to suggest further that His Lordship might communicate with the Bishops of Quebec and ask them to bear in mind the opinion given by Mr. Blake, and to say in the light of that opinion what amendments they would be prepared to accept. If the Bishops could possibly appoint a sub-committee chosen from among the Bishops of all Canada to confer with a certain number of laymen among whom we might have a few lawyers, and decide upon some practical course to adopt, then I think possibly we would be acting like rational beings and able to accomplish something.

It is urgent that something should be done at once now that the Manitoba Legislature is in session, so that the present suggested settlement should not go through in the present form, as I fear that if something is not done now an excuse will be given to some people to say that the matter is concluded, and that we cannot interfere further.

If, therefore, we press the matter now, and get further amendments agreed on, we might have the legislation in Manitoba postponed until an opportunity is given us to make our wishes known.

I think further that His Lordship might point out to the Quebec Bishops that instead of opposing the sending of a Delegate, they should themselves ask for one, so as to have some person here who could speak with authority from the Pope and heal up our unfortunate troubles which are becoming scandalous.

If you think a personal interview desirable I would run up next week.

Yours very truly,

C. FITZPATRICK.

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Office of the Solicitor-General of Canada.

25, 2, 97.

My dear Judge,—

I send you for the information of His Lordship the translation of a cipher message just received from Rome.

You will of course, understand that this information must be treated as absolutely confidential in the very strictest sense.

Yours very truly,

C. FITZPATRICK.