

MANITOBA.

An Important Letter from Archbishop Langevin.

WILL INSIST UPON RESTORATION.

Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface, has addressed an important letter on the school question to the Verite, the Catholic organ of Quebec. Archbishop Langevin, in the course of his letter, says:

"The hour is a solemn one, and I feel that the eyes of the whole country are turned towards Manitoba. The school question is not a racial or religious question, or one of personal convictions; it is a question of justice and equity, it is a social question of the highest importance. It is no longer a political question, but a vital question for the Canadian Confederation. The rights of a minority are solemnly recognized by the highest tribunal of the British Empire, and even protected by the Royal seal, by our gracious Sovereign the Queen-in-Council. Even they who do not share the belief of this minority admit that our grievances are legitimate. The public declarations of enlightened Protestants, members of the bar or clergy, the pamphlets of the learned lawyer Ewart, of Winnipeg, and the writings of Mr. Louis Kribs, of Toronto, have called public attention to the fact that there is a strong feeling in Winnipeg and in Ontario on behalf of this oppressed minority. I am of the firm conviction that the majority of our separated brethren are sympathetic to us.

THEIR SCHOOL RIGHTS.

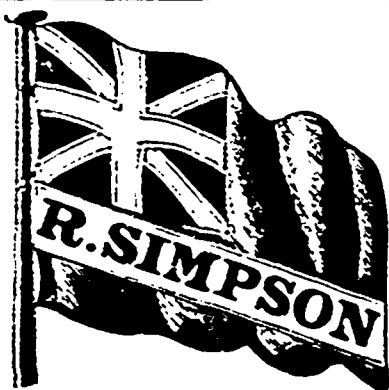
"Is justice going to be given, yes or no, to the Manitoba minority? Is the Federal compact going to be maintained? This is what we want to know. My duty as representing the Catholics of Manitoba is to simply demand our school rights. I cannot sacrifice them. Depositum custodi. Certes, we are quite willing to come to an understanding with our rulers, but never at the cost of our scholastic liberties. This is what has been declared by numerous representatives of the Catholics of St. Boniface and Winnipeg, and especially last winter by Senator Bernier and Rev. Abbe Cherrier, who were sent to Ottawa to second the effort of our admirable lawyer, Mr. Ewart, charged with upholding our rights before the Federal Cabinet. We have suffered for more than four years. For more than four years the tide of immigration has been stopped because people write to us from Europe and Canada, saying, 'What is the use of going to Manitoba? You have no free schools.'

INDEBTED AND CRUSHED.

For four years our good Catholics of nationality, have been called upon to pay \$3,500 per annum, besides the taxes paid for the schools which are satisfactory to the Protestant majority, and which no person wants to take away from them. We are indebted and crushed. Several of our young parishes in the country districts have been putting forth the same generous efforts for a year past as the Catholics of Winnipeg have done to maintain their schools. It is time, it seems to me, that our cause be taken vigorously in hand. The order-in-Council of the Ottawa Government is the echo of the Royal word, and the loyal subjects of her Majesty cannot remain indifferent to it. No matter what interpretation be given to it, it is evidently the consecration of our rights, and it stipulates what we ask. We hope that those who have power in hand at Winnipeg will like to make up for the past. If they should refuse we would

invoke what the honourable Privy Council of England styles "the Parliamentary compact," that is to say, the constitution. It is then that we would benefit in relying upon the prompt and telling action of the Federal power, assisted by all the friends of the constitution, justice and British fair play. We do not forget the energetic declaration of the leader of the Ottawa Government, and we shall appeal to them in opportune time.

"If miserable party interests cause our claims to be overlooked we will remember that above the local and Federal powers dependent upon popular favor is the Royal throne. We will invoke the legend, 'Dieu et mon Droit,' and we will respectfully await the legend which will consecrate all compacts and all treaties. In the meantime God knows what we will suffer. I am asking myself where we are to find means of maintaining our schools. It is possible, dear sir, that my declarations may appear too strong for some people, but I would ask them to suppose for an instant that it was the Protestant minority of Quebec which was so oppressed. Would there be a single man in the Dominion—be he archbishop, bishop, priest, statesman, or an ordinary citizen—who would hesitate to uphold it, and who would find its claims too strong? I am a bishop; I am not a partisan. I say to all—pax vobis, peace be with you; but justice and peace must give to each other an amicable greeting. In any case I place my confidence and my hopes in God, 'adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.'"



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