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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION. UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA.

Ottawa, Canada, March 7th, 1900. To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont.

London, Saturday Feb. 15, 1902.

OFFICIAL.

LENTEEN REGULATIONS FOR 1902.

The following are the Lenten Regulations for the Diocese of London:

1st. All days of Lent, Sunday excepted, are fast days.

2nd. By a special indulgent from the Holy See, A. D. 1884, meat is allowed on Sundays at every meal, and at one meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, except the Saturday of Ember Week and Holy Saturday.

3rd. The use of flesh and fish at the same time is not allowed in Lent.

The following persons are exempted from abstinence, viz.: Children under seven years; and from fasting, persons under twenty-one; and from either or both, those who, on account of ill-health, advanced age, hard labor, or some other legitimate cause, cannot observe the law. In case of doubt the pastor should be consulted.

Lard may be used in preparing fasting food during the season of Lent, except on Good Friday, as also on all days of abstinence throughout the year by those who cannot easily procure butter.

Pastors are required to hold in their respective churches—at least twice in the week during Lent—devotions and instructions suited to the Holy Season, and they should earnestly exhort their people to attend these public devotions. Thereby, authorized to give on these occasions Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Besides the public devotions, family prayers, especially the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, should be recited in every Catholic household of the diocese.

By ORDER OF THE BISHOP.

D. J. EGAN, Sec.

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF WINDSOR.

We have much pleasure in being able to state that the Catholic Separate schools which have been established in Windsor since the beginning of the year have proved to be a great success in regard both to efficiency of the teaching and the number of children in attendance.

The teachers employed are the same who were previously employed under the Public School Board in teaching in the two Catholic Public schools, of St. Alphonsus and St. Francis, if we may use such an expression. By the employment of the same staff of teachers, the Catholic Board have shown their wisdom, as the competency of all these teachers was duly recognized and acknowledged while they formed part of the Public schools staff.

Inspector Maxwell in his report of the Public schools for 1901 said: "Every member of the teaching staff gave his or her best labor and spirit to the children." These words apply as matter of course to the present teachers of the Separate schools, as they belonged to the staff of teachers thus spoken of in regard to their work for last year.

The new schools have been named St. Alphonsus and St. Francis' Separate schools, and the average attendance for the month of January was respectively 278 and 256. The monthly report states, however, that St. Alphonsus' school is very crowded, and it is necessary to put in a number of extra desks. The matter is now being attended to.

This crowding of the school was a matter which could not be foreseen in the establishment of a new school, as it was impossible to foretell exactly the number of children who would have to be provided for, or which school they would attend, until the schools should be in actual operation. Now that these things are known we feel certain that the trustees will have no difficulty in meeting the emergency, except the financial difficulty arising out of the fact that the School law of Ontario makes no provision for apportioning to a newly established Catholic school an

equitable share of the school property held by the public school board at the time of separation.

To make the injustice of this state of affairs apparent to our readers, it is necessary to quote the provisions of the Public School Act in the case of readjustment of school sections.

When township School Boards are dissolved and school section boards are instituted in their stead, the law provides that

"The inspector jointly with two other persons not residents of the township, or any two of them, shall value the school houses, school sites, and other school property which may thereupon become the property of each school section, and shall also adjust and settle the respective rights and claims between the respective sections, etc." (Section 30, chapter 70.)

And when the boundaries of a school section are altered, a similar board of arbitration

"Shall value and adjust in an equitable manner all rights and claims between the respective portions of the township affected." (Section 33.)

A similar adjustment is to be made when part of any school section has been added to a city or town, except that it is the municipal council in which the section is situated which makes the award. (Section 38)

[[All this is perfectly equitable, and it is easily seen that equity demands that in the case of the establishment of a Separate school for Catholics, the ratepayers supporting such school should be awarded a fair share of the Public school property toward accumulating which they have been contributors for years; and it would be but fair that the award should be made by disinterested parties in a similar manner to that which takes place in the case of Public schools.

The Catholic Separate School Law was passed by the Parliament of United Canada in 1863, a large majority of which was Protestant, and by a considerable section of this Protestant majority every favorable or fair provision for Catholic schools was bitterly opposed, and this fact accounts for the unjust treatment of Catholics under the existing school law; and this injustice exists throughout Ontario.

In the case of Windsor the injustice is still more glaring.

The site of the Public School of St. Alphonsus was deeded by Vital Ouellette and wife in 1873 "in trust forever for uses and purposes of a Roman Catholic School."

The Public School Board accepted this trust and built the existing School house from taxes levied on Catholics and Protestants alike, the schools occupied by the Protestant children being similarly built from taxes levied in the same way. Thus, under the law, Catholics are obliged to establish their own schools at their own expense, and also to assist in erecting new school-houses for their Protestant neighbors; and they are obliged likewise to give up possession of a school site which was originally deeded solely for their use.

The Separate School law was in force at the time indicated; and it cannot be doubted that the only way in which the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Ouellette could be legally carried out was to establish a legal Catholic Separate School on the premises. The Public School Board, so far as we can see, had no legal right to accept such a trust; but having accepted it, it should be transferred to the Catholic School Board which has now a legal existence. The Separate School Board alone can legally carry out the terms of the deed.

On the 7th of September last, 530 out of the 732 Catholic ratepayers of Windsor petitioned the Public School Board asking that St. Alphonsus' and St. Francis' schools, which have been hitherto conducted as Catholic Separate schools, though they were under the Public School Board, should be transferred to the Catholic Separate School Board to be managed in accordance with the Separate School Act.

Subsequently the Catholic Board of trustees modified the request of the two schools named above should be rented at a nominal price to the Catholic Board for the use of the Catholic children, until they are required for Public school purposes, and that a committee from each Board should meet to adjust amicably all matters between them.

The Public School Board has taken no action as yet on this reasonable request.

The arrangement hitherto existing whereby two schools were set apart for the education of the Catholic children of the city has worked fairly well; but it is well understood that such an arrangement could not be permanent as it was illegal, and was merely tolerated by the Education Department as a temporary measure which would be upset at any time when some Protestant ratepayers might raise an objection against it. There can be no doubt that at some time or other the arrangement would be so objected to, and His Lordship Bishop McEvay wisely suggested to the Catholics of Windsor that the

law should be acted on which provides for the establishment of Catholic Separate schools.

This has been done; and it is far better for all concerned that it should be done now, instead of staving off the difficulty to a future time when the population of Windsor shall be so increased as to make the difficulty doubly or triply greater than it is now, inasmuch as the Catholic contributions toward the erection of the Public schools will have been increased by that time two or three fold. The very fact of the unwillingness shown by the Protestant School Board at the present time to make an amicable settlement, is the best possible evidence that it would be the height of folly on the part of the Catholics to continue any longer the illegal arrangement which has existed for half a century. At a future time they would be subjected to an injustice of much greater magnitude.

Fifty years ago when the recently existing arrangement was made, the Catholics were a majority of the population of Windsor; or at all events the assessable property was almost entirely owned by Catholics, and it has been shown that the Catholic assessment for school purpose has been all along much greater than the amount paid by the School Board for the maintenance of the two Catholic schools. Surely the Public School Board should now be willing to make an equitable settlement, even though the letter of the law should make no provision for such an arrangement. We believe that legislation could be easily obtained if it be needed to ratify any fair arrangement which might be arrived at, and the public school board ought in all fairness to exhibit a readiness to make such a settlement. It is at least a question of equity and honesty, if not of law. The law as it stands is the result of the storm of bigotry with which the demands of the Catholics were met when they asked for the liberty to educate their children in the way in which they conscientiously believed this duty should be fulfilled.

We have said that it is a question of equity and honesty, if not of law; for we are not sure that the law itself may not bear out the Catholic demand, at least in part, so far as St. Alphonsus' school is concerned. At all events the Public School Board should not object to appoint a committee to meet a similar committee of the Catholic Board to adjust matters between the two corporations. Hitherto the Catholics and Protestants of Windsor have lived together harmoniously; but if the Catholic petition be disregarded, the Catholics will have good reason to complain that they shall have been unjustly treated. If the case were reversed, and that Catholics had attempted to inflict a similar injury on their Protestant fellow-citizens, we can readily imagine from the past what a howl of indignation would come forth from every part of the Province. The Orange lodges, the Ministerial Associations, the Conferences, Presbyteries, and Synods of all sects would unite in passing resolutions of indignant protestation against Catholic bigotry, intolerance and dishonesty.

At all events this matter cannot be allowed to rest here. Should the Windsor Public School Board not act decently and promptly in this matter, it will certainly be full time for the Catholic body to demand that the school law shall be made more equitable. It is, indeed, a question whether that time has not arrived already. There have been this and last year a number of Catholic Separate schools established, all of which are met at their inception with the same legalized injustice. It is surely time that this should be removed. The same authority which made the law can change and improve it, but we cannot expect such improvement unless we demand it in unmistakable terms.

To this we may add that the law still makes the Catholic ratepayers of Windsor responsible for the debentures outstanding for the erection of school-houses. It is said that the amount which Catholics will have to pay on this account will be fully equal to the value of St. Francis' school. This is another grievance on account of which there should be a change in the law at once.

A STRANGE PROCEEDING.

We notice by the proceedings of the Windsor Board of Education that on a motion introduced by Trustee Wigle "to appoint a committee to confer with the Roman Catholic Separate School Board to ascertain what claims as to its legal rights, and what equitable rights they claim in Public School property," when Trustee Cleary rose to speak, Trustee Atkinson objecting, asked the ruling of the Chair whether Mr. Cleary had the right to speak or vote on Public school affairs.

Chairman J. G. Reid ruled that Mr. Cleary, who is a member of the Board by virtue of his appointment by the

County Council as trustee of the Collegiate Institute, has no such right. On a motion that he should discuss the matter under consideration, but take no part in the voting, it was again decided that he should not do this. The motion was then made that Mr. Cleary should be heard as a private citizen, but this was also refused.

We fail to see on what grounds Mr. Cleary's right both to speak and vote was denied. The school law provides, indeed, that the representative of the Separate School Board on the High School Board of trustees shall not have the right to vote on Public School matters where there is a union of the High and Public School Trustees into one Board. But Mr. Cleary is not the representative of the Separate School Board, but of the County Council, and therefore represents the whole people of the County. He should, therefore, possess all the rights and powers of the other representatives of the county of the united Board of Education, otherwise the county loses its quota of representation on the United Board.

The members of the Public School Board have undoubtedly the right to vote on all High school matters, and it would be a very one-sided union if the members of the High School Board had not the equal right to vote on all Public school matters, except in the particular case in which the law excludes the representative of the Catholic Separate School Board, which has no interest in the management of the Public schools. But the union of the two Boards was the deliberate act of the Boards themselves as separate bodies, and the law lays it down clearly that the united "Board shall have the powers of Public and High School Trustees." Thus by the Act of Union, the two Boards have for a supposed mutual benefit, given to each other the unrestricted right to vote on all questions affecting both schools—except in the single case already referred to.

The action of the Chairman and of the majority which backed him up in his decision must have been dictated by ignorance and bigotry combined.

If the Board is not satisfied with the law on the matter, it rests with itself to apply the remedy, which is to dissolve the union. In such case the trustees of each Board will be able to transact its own business separately, to their own satisfaction; but as long as they persist in keeping up the union they should stick to the law.

The vote of the Board whereby Mr. Wigle's motion was defeated is an evidence that it is their determination not to grant the equitable claims of the Catholic body in their city. Our views in regard to this point will be found in another article in to-day's issue.

THE SEPARATE SCHOOL QUESTION IN SANDWICH.

In another article re the position taken by the Windsor Board of Education in regard to the Catholic Separate Schools of the same city, we show the equitable claim of Catholics to a proper proportion of the school property when Catholic Separate Schools are established. This claim exists even though it may not be recognized by the school laws.

It appears from the account of the proceedings of the Sandwich Public School Board that there is a fair prospect that this claim will be recognized in that town.

A special meeting of the above-named Board was held on Jan. 5th for the purpose of making arrangements with the Separate School Board for the use of school No. 2 which the Separate school there is at present occupying.

A motion was made by one of the Trustees that the sum of \$200 per annum should be required from the Separate School Board for the use of the School-house.

Mayor Girardot, who was present on behalf of the Separate School Trustees, whose Chairman was unavoidably absent, obtained permission to speak, and in a forcible address thoroughly reviewed the School situation in Sandwich for the last fifty years.

We are indebted to the Windsor Record for the following report of his address:

MAYOR GIRARDOT'S ADDRESS.

The mayor said: He was very much disappointed and chagrined at the selfish and neighborly attitude of the Public School Board in this matter; that for fifty years the most cordial and harmonious relations had existed between the Catholics and Protestants of the community and that he did not believe the Public School Board was in earnest when making such a proposition to the Separate School Board and that he was tempted to treat it as a twentieth century joke.

He pointed out that he knew the Public School Board were aware that the population of the town was about evenly divided and that the Catholics, since half a century had paid over half the taxes; that two schools had been built in town by common consent, one for the Catholics and one for the Protestants; and that both Catholics and Protestants had actually paid each half of the cost of these schools and that in all justice and fairness the Catholics were entitled to the free and undisturbed use of one of the schools they had paid for.

The mayor called the attention of the Public School Board to the fact that the two schools in Sandwich have always been for all intent and purpose two Separate schools, a separate Catholic and a separate Protestant school administered by common consent by a School Board composed of three Catholics and three Protestants; that the Catholic members of the board hired their own teachers and administered their school, and the three Protestant members did likewise. He stated that this

modus vivendi had worked admirably and to the satisfaction of all concerned. That practically and for all purposes there were two distinct separate boards merged into one for the sake of economy, and as an example of the good and brotherly feeling that should exist among all classes of the community. The mayor laid particular stress on the fact that during these fifty years the school taxes collected were evenly distributed between the two schools; and that there never had been a word of dissension among the members of the Board; and that as an example of the good feeling that existed in the community inasmuch as the Catholics had purchased a day school building which they had presented to their fellow pupils of the Protestant school, which had no belief that time.

The mayor stated that on account of a Catholic Separate school being formed in Sandwich, and the fact that the taxes of 1900 were collected in 1901, the Public school supporters were not taxed for school purposes last year, and ran their school the whole year with the \$1,000 of taxes that had been collected from the Catholics, and which rightfully belonged to them. That while the Public school was running with monies exclusively collected from the Catholics, the Catholics had to subscribe or otherwise tax themselves to support their own school.

The mayor stated that the Catholic school population was twice as large as the Protestant school population; that the Public School Board had more than ample school accommodation for all its needs, and that it had no use for the building now occupied by the Catholic Separate school. He stated that the fact that the Catholics had a separate school did in no way increase or ever impose any new duties on the public school trustees; did not in any way increase the taxes had existed was in no way disturbed; and that taking all the foregoing facts into consideration it was preposterous, unjust, and unworthy of a School Board, who are supposed to represent the interests and moral standing of the Public school supporters to make such an outrageous and unfair proposition to their fellow-citizens of the Catholic faith.

The mayor stated emphatically that the Catholic portion of the community, which was one-half of the population, did not intend to pay to the Public School Board for the use of a building they had paid for themselves, and that the separate school intended to occupy this building free of all cost and undisturbed, until the said building was really required for Public school purposes when they would cheerfully vacate it and provide themselves with other school accommodation.

He appealed to the Board that their first act as a new Board should be one of equity, broadness of view and brotherly feeling; that it should be based on the Golden Rule and that they should at once and without hesitation pass a resolution granting to the Separate school the free and undisturbed use of the school building they were now occupying until such time as was needed for Public school purposes.

The mayor said that if the tables were reversed and the Separate school was offering similar terms to the Public School Board that they would not have hesitated to accept the same; because there would be such a howl of indignation and imprecations that never was heard in this free and civilized Dominion of ours.

The speaker also stated that they had applied to the Government, through Mr. McKee, member for North Essex, for such a grant, or amendment to the School Act as would give them in undisturbed possession of one of the schools they had paid for and to which they were fairly and equitably entitled; that they asked no favor, but asked justice. He hoped the Public School Board would do as they should in all decency, wait until action was taken by the Government on this question before dealing with it themselves.

The mayor hoped, for the credit and reputation of the Public School Board, that they would not await for action from the Government, but participate in and grant to the Separate School Board the free use of the school until it was needed for Public school purposes.

It is stated that the able address of Mayor Girardot had great weight with the Public School Board, and that as a result, the Board adjourned for the further consideration of the question, which will be brought up again at the next regular meeting. It is confidently said that the Board will act upon the suggestion of the Mayor, and will grant the "just, fair, and equitable demand of their fellow-citizens, the Separate school supporters."

Should the Sandwich Board act thus honorably, its honest example will stand in striking contrast to the meanness and bigotry which have been shown by the Windsor Board of Education.

INTERCHANGES OF NATIONAL COURTESIES.

The intended visit of Prince Henry of Germany, the brother of the Emperor William, to the United States is looked forward to by the people of the Great Republic with the anticipation that there will be an uninterrupted pleasant time for the Prince, and a prolonged holiday or a series of holidays for the American populace.

There have been visits of princes and princesses of minor degree to the United States, and even the ex-queen of Hawaii has taken up her residence there; and there is at the present moment a young lady who is a Hindoo princess, the daughter of the celebrated Dhuleep Singh, studying for a degree in the University of Chicago. The Princess Enlalie of Spain also visited the Columbian world's exposition in Chicago in 1893; but this is the first time in the history of the country that it has been determined that a prince royal of one of the great powers of Europe shall visit the dominant republic of the New World; and the visit is expressly declared to be intended to help establish a cordial feeling between America and Germany.

The American people have accustomed themselves to believe that they are individually as great in dignity as any prince of blood royal, and even as royalty itself, and they are not slow in claiming that every man of the United States is a king or emperor, and every woman a queen. Nevertheless they have, in spite of their intense democratic feeling, an irrepressible reverence for nobility which has frequently manifested itself towards sons of the families of British peers who have from time to time visited the country; and we do not go into the region of improbability in predicting that Prince Henry will be received with the most enthusiastic and even extravagant demonstrations of joy and welcome wherever he goes from the time of his arrival in the country down to the date of his departure therefrom.

The United States Government has given orders that a most cordial wel-

come shall be given to the princely visitor, and we have no doubt the order will be obeyed in every city which he may visit from New York to San Francisco or Chicago, should the Prince decide to extend his visit so far.

Among the ceremonies which Prince Henry will attend in state, the principal one which has been laid down on the programme is the christening and launching of a new yacht which is being built on Shooter's island near New York city, for the Emperor William. This vessel will be named The Meteor, and the Emperor himself has invited Miss Alice Roosevelt, the President's daughter, to perform the ceremony.

Prince Henry will attend on the occasion with his whole retinue, and the President and his Cabinet and the diplomatic corps of all countries having representatives in the States will likewise attend to give additional solemnity to the occasion.

There has been recently some ill-feeling between the United States and Germany arising out of a war of tariffs, and the Americans have complained bitterly because in retaliation for duties imposed by them on certain goods imported from Germany, the latter country has hit back by paying the same compliment to its big commercial rival. Some supposed designs or encroachments of Germany upon South America have also excited ire in the United States which lays it down as a principle under the Monroe doctrine that no power of the Eastern World must seek to extend its territory to America. But it is expected that Prince Henry's visit will do more to drive away distrust between the two powers than any diplomatic efforts in the same direction could possibly do. Thus the Kaiser stands forth as a man of consummate tact by making friends where there might easily have arisen enemies.

President Roosevelt on his side has also shown his tact, as he succeeded in making the Kaiser laugh heartily over a message which he communicated through the American ambassador at Berlin. It is quite a new feature in international intercourse that a diplomatic message should be so amusing, but it is the best possible sign that there is no bad blood when state messages are received with a hearty laugh.

The President in sending a welcome to the Kaiser on account of Prince Henry's intended visit, invited the Kaiser himself to visit the United States at some time when he may make it convenient so to do, and then referring to a feat of capturing a whale, not long since accomplished by the Kaiser, he added that he could not offer the prospect of a whale hunt to his Imperial Majesty, as there are no whales in the United States, but he added, there are lions to be found on the Eastern mountains, and the Emperor might have the opportunity of being the first monarch of the world who should have the glory of having slain a lion. It was this sally which was so much enjoyed by the Kaiser.

It is now believed to be settled also that Miss Alice Roosevelt will attend the coronation of King Edward VII, which will take place in June. It is her great desire to witness this imposing ceremonial, and it is believed that President Roosevelt has given his consent. It is said that Miss Roosevelt, who is quite a young girl, will rank as a princess of the blood royal, and will wear a robe of crimson, or, as it is called, royal purple. Her dress will be distinguished from that of princesses by additional bands of ermine and miniver. The princesses will wear golden coronets, but as Miss Roosevelt's father's dignity is not hereditary, she will not wear this mark of distinction. She will have the honor, however, of lodging at one of the royal palaces, and every mark of attention will be extended to her.

When Prince Henry will reach the United States, he will be accompanied everywhere by secret service detectives as a protection against any possible chance which might give a Czolgosz an opportunity to assassinate him. It is asserted, apparently on good authority, that the plans for the official reception to be given the Prince have greatly agitated anarchist circles in certain cities, and every effort will be made to guard the Prince from possible dangers.

There is a somewhat discordant note sounded by some of the American papers in reference to Prince Henry's visit, taking advantage of the occasion to make fun of the whole matter; but this arises not out of ill-nature or ill-will for either the Prince himself or his country, but rather from the irrepressible love of joking which some editors have. Thus the Brooklyn Eagle says:

"We have a lot of things to show our way. Of course he has picture galleries and parks and arches and statues at home which are quite as good and perhaps better than ours, but Berlin has no sky-scrapers, no big Suspension bridge, no bossy car-conductors, no broken-down political machines, no

colored supplement to him how a great minimum of expense, discomfort, and mystery of 6 o'clock morning. We will and to Tammany that he will not place, and we will vels of the Yellow with him when the eff with him, and any real badly, she is whether it be a errant Prince. The stock yards, and royal hand to b Dink and Bath ho

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