

CORRESPONDENCE.

QUEBEC, January 21—Hon. Mr. Marchand is reported as saying in the Legislature, in answer to Mr. Marion, that he had no correspondence with Cardinal Rampolla for which he could be held accountable to the House. The Premier, no doubt, profited by a slight error in Mr. Marion's question to get out of a very uneasy position. The fact is that Mr. Marchand himself never had any correspondence with the secretary of the Propaganda, but the late Lieutenant Governor did. The Prime Minister's part in the whole story consisted in writing a long letter to Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal.

When the young Archbishop of Montreal went to Rome in 1897 he was granted an audience with Pope Leo, who enquired as to the state of the Church in the Province of Quebec. Mgr. Bruchesi answered that the faithful were thoroughly submissive, but that the Provincial Government was about to put before the Legislature an educational bill, the tenor of which was subversive to the Roman Catholic principles.

"Then, if that is the case," the Pope stated, "that measure should not be adopted now."

Immediately after the Bishop left the Papal chambers he cabled to Sir Adolphe Chapleau, then Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, the following message:

"Pape demande sursis bill instruction publique." (Pope asks delay bill public instruction.)

Sir Adolphe called for his Prime Minister, Hon. Mr. Marchand, and showed him the despatch.

The Premier was much disappointed, and expressed his great surprise at the manner in which Mgr. Bruchesi must have been reporting to Rome the Government's policy. The bill of

public instruction was then in the hands of the proposer and seconder of the address, as the Legislature had been summoned to meet in a few days. Moreover, the bill had been advertised, so to speak, in all the Government newspapers, and could not very well be withdrawn.

Under such circumstances the Prime Minister boldly stated to Sir Adolphe that before dropping the measure the Cabinet should resign. The Lieutenant Governor, whose influence in Rome had always been preponderant, immediately wired to Rampolla that it was impossible to withdraw the bill, and that he was writing at once and giving the reasons of the Government. The Cardinal answered that the Pope had not ordered the withdrawal of the measure. However, Sir Adolphe wrote on that same day, as promised, a very long letter, in which he strenuously took the defence of his Government's proposed law, which, he contended, instead of being detrimental to Catholic education, was very favorable, as it afforded to the clerical authorities the assistance of the State. He also eulogized the Ministers' good dispositions towards the Church, and indulged, as was his wont, in philosophical dissertations on education in general.

Sir Adolphe also wrote to his great friend, Monsignor Merry del Val, the ex-Papal delegate to Canada, and assured him that the proposed education bill was within the line of the Catholic dogma. He included in his letter a copy of that which he had written to Cardinal Rampolla.

In the meantime, Mr. Marchand, who had seen himself on the verge of resignation, thought he would at least say something to the Archbishop of Montreal. He accordingly wrote to the latter a two-page type written