

PREFACE

using their own language in the elementary schools. With the coming of many thousands of immigrants from continental Europe, a demand arose that these same rights be extended to various nationalities. These demands were acceded to, and the difficulties of administration of the school system were greatly increased, difficulties which had never been slight by reason of the unwillingness of the late Archbishop of St. Boniface to accept the compromise of 1897 as final. In Manitoba, then, questions of religion and language were both pressing, being more or less interwoven, and by many people hopelessly confused. The administration of the day appeared lethargic and helpless, if not compromised. It was thought that criticism from without might assist in spurring the Province to come to the aid of the thousands of children who were entering it on the invitation of the Canadian people.

The information then gained and the conclusions then arrived at form the starting-point of the present work. With Manitoba I naturally compared Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Then I turned to Ontario, where the language controversy, after twenty years of comparative quiescence, had been revived by the publication of the celebrated letter giving the purport of a conversation