

proved defective, imperfect, and insufficient; some few only of the school districts where the Catholics practically form the total of the ratepayers, having been able to take advantage of it, and that only through the good will of the Government, whilst in those of mixed population, where Protestants are in the majority, no benefit whatever can be derived from the so-called School Settlement; and

"Whereas, the Catholics of Winnipeg in particular have seen their repeated efforts to obtain redress frustrated by the persistent refusal of the city of Winnipeg in public town their just demands, and whereas they have had, now for more than twelve years, to pay double taxes, the one for the building up and support of the public schools of Winnipeg, and the other for the maintenance of their own schools.

Be it resolved, that we Catholics of the city of Winnipeg in public meeting, consider it our duty to put it on record that our grievance in school matters has so far in no way been redressed;

Be it further resolved, that Messrs. J. G. Carroll, T. D. Deegan, P. Marrin, N. Bawlf, F. W. Russell, and Mr. McManus be a committee, with power to add to their number, to approach our local government and lay before the Honorable, the Premier of Manitoba, our grievances with prayer for redress; and that in the event of the said local government refusing or showing inability to grant our just demands, two of the members of the said committee be instructed to proceed at once to Ottawa with a view to lay the matter before the Federal Government, and to pray the Governor-in-General not to permit the aggrieved minority of Manitoba to suffer any longer the unjust treatment under which they have now labored for more than twelve years."

It does not appear to be necessary to add much to the terms of the resolution; they speak for themselves and represent briefly the present standing of what is known as "The Manitoba School Question." With your permission, however, we will, in a few words, summarize and re-state the undeniable facts of the case as follows:—

The Catholic minority of Manitoba have not been accorded any legal relief as the result of the Privy Council decision of 1895. That we are entitled to such relief under that decision was recognized and admitted by the Dominion and Provincial Governments when they met in conference in 1896 and arranged certain amendments to the School Law of 1890, but as a matter of fact these amendments have utterly failed to give us the relief contemplated by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and so far as the rights of the Catholic minority are concerned the amendments arranged between the Laurier and the Greenway Governments, might just as well never have been passed. It is the exact truth to say that in not one school district of the province have a Roman Catholic minority any rights by law in the matter of education, and the grievance which the Privy Council declared existed in 1895, still exists in all its force and rigor in every district where Catholics form a minority of the population. To show what this means it is simply necessary to point out that there are fourteen hundred and eighty-eight schools in Manitoba—1,363 of these are in districts in which Catholics form a minority of the population and have no rights or privileges whatever. Only about 125 are in Catholic centres, and being under Catholic control, some slight privileges are enjoyed notwithstanding the law.

In Winnipeg the Catholics have more than once approached the public school board, hoping against hope that that body might be able to interpret the law as amended in such a way as to give the minority here at least some measure of relief, but the school trustees have on each occasion met our appeal with declarations that they are powerless to grant our petition inasmuch as they are elected simply and solely to administer the law, and that they are debarred by the terms of the amendment from making our appeals favorable consideration.

Winnipeg, so in every other town in the province where Catholics are in a minority, there is no longer any possible hope that any

thing will be done for us by district school boards whilst the law remains in its present form.

This being the case and the burden of double taxation growing more and more intolerable as our school population increases and new buildings become necessary, we now exercise the right we have as loyal citizens to lay our case once more before the Government. All we ask is that legislation be passed in line with the Privy Council decision. This is not an unreasonable request, but it is a petition which no minority should have to make twice in such a province as Manitoba, or in any other province of the British Empire over which the Privy Council has jurisdiction. The people of Manitoba profess to be proud of their loyalty to the British Crown and tradition—in this matter refusal to accord us justice means not only the perpetuation of the un-British principal of imposing a heavy double tax on a conscientious and loyal minority, but it also indicates a most deplorable disregard of a solemn judgment of the highest court in the Empire.

We trust that these considerations will move the Government of Manitoba to still further amend the School Act, and to amend it in such a way that the grievances pointed out in the Privy Council decision may be effectually remedied and that justice and harmony may once more prevail in the educational affairs of the province.

We have the honor to remain, sir, on behalf of the Catholics of Winnipeg, your obedient servants.

On hearing the memorandum, Mr. Roblin asked whether any member of the deputation wished to say anything further.

Mr. Deegan said he did not think it necessary to take up the time by adding anything. The memo. spoke for itself and went into the subject fully. He would be happy to answer any questions; but he didn't think he could add one word to what the document contained.

The other gentlemen also had no wish to make any other observations.

The Premier's Reply.  
Hon. Mr. Roblin then read a reply as follows:—

Gentlemen,—I regret that you have felt it necessary to make the request you have just made. I would very much have preferred that some satisfactory arrangement had been reached between the School Board of Winnipeg and yourselves. I say this because I have before me the recommendation to Council by the then Attorney-General, Honorable Mr. Cameron, under date of the 25th November, 1896, with the memo. of agreement attached, dated the 16th November, 1896, signed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, representing the Dominion on the one side, and Clifford Sifton, representing the Province on the other. You will notice that it reads—"A final settlement," which leaves the Province no option in the matter. I am, therefore, unable to hold out any inducement, or to make you any promise. I don't think it necessary for me to say anything more; but in courtesy, and, I presume, as a matter of right also, to give you these data that I have before me here, and which you possibly have not yet seen. I have copies here which I will be glad to furnish.

The documents referred to by the Premier, copies of which he delivered to the deputation, were as follows:—

To His Honor  
The Honorable James Colbrooke Patterson,  
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba.  
Etc., etc., etc.

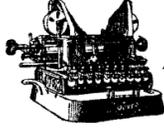
Report of a Committee of the Executive Council on Matters Referred to Their Consideration.

Present:  
The Honorable  
Mr. Greenway (in the chair).  
Mr. McMillan.  
Mr. Cameron.

On Matters of State.  
May it please Your Honor,  
On the recommendation of the Honorable the Attorney-General.

The Committee Advise:  
That Order-in-Council No. 5560G, dated 12th November, 1896, be rescinded, and that the annexed memorandum having been agreed to by and on behalf of the Governments of the Dominion of Canada, and the Province of Manitoba, be hereby ratified and approved as a final settlement of questions between the said Governments with

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reference to the exercise of appellate jurisdiction under the appeal taken to the Governor-General in Council against the Public Schools Act, 1890.

And that this Order-in-Council take effect from and after the date when an order is passed by the Governor-General-in-Council ratifying and approving the said annexed memorandum.

Respectfully submitted,  
(Signed) J. D. Cameron,  
Chairman.

Executive Council Chamber,  
November 25th, 1896.  
Approved and ordered, November 25th, 1896.

(Signed) J. C. Patterson.  
To His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

May it please Your Honor,  
The undersigned has the honor to recommend for the consideration of Council the following:—

That Order-in-Council 5560G, dated 12th November, 1896, be rescinded, and that the annexed memorandum, having been agreed to by and on behalf of the Governments of the Dominion of Canada, and of the Province of Manitoba, be hereby ratified and approved as a final settlement of questions between the said Governments with reference to the exercise of appellate jurisdiction under the appeal taken to the Governor-General-in-Council against "The Public Schools Act," 1890.

That this Order-in-Council take effect from and after this date when an order is passed by the Governor-General-in-Council, ratifying and approving the said annexed memorandum.

Respectfully submitted,  
(Signed) J. D. Cameron,  
Attorney-General.

Order-in-Council passed same date, 25th November, 1896.

Council Chamber,  
25th November, 1896.

To the foregoing documents were attached the following:—

Memorandum re settlement of school question. Signed by Wilfrid Laurier and Clifford Sifton, Ottawa, 16th November, 1896.

Terms of settlement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba for the settlement of the school question appear in Sessional Papers (Dominion), Volume XXXI., Paper 35. Same terms are set forth as in Manitoba Order-in-Council. Roman Catholic protests will also be found as in Sessional Paper referred to.

Extract from Speech from the Throne, Free Press, February 19th, 1897.

Extract from the Free Press, March 12th, 1897. Speech of Hon. J. D. Cameron on motion in the Legislature.

Public Schools, Chapter 26. An Act to amend the Public Schools Act, Assented to 30th March, 1897. Mr. Deegan, after hearing the Premier, remarked: "That puts a new phase on the question to us. We never took it that there was any agreement between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Local Government at that time which was declared as final. Of course it was always stated that it was a sort of arrangement that could be improved as time went on; it was always put forth on the platform as such. This puts a new phase on the matter."

Thanking the Premier for his courtesy, the deputation then withdrew.

It is now understood that the committee will proceed to carry out the instructions contained in the resolution passed by the mass meeting by laying the matter before the Dominion Government at the earliest possible date.

A little four-year-old boy was being taught politeness at meal time; that he was not to expect to be helped first, and particularly that

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ladies were always served before gentlemen. Soon after, when it was all being digested in his little mind, he said to his mother, who was undressing him at night:

"Mother, you are going to die first."  
"What in the world do you mean by that?" his mother asked.  
"You will die before I do."  
"And what makes you think I will?"  
"Why, you know ladies always before gentlemen."—N. Y. Times.

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