

complaints had been fully considered for several years, that there was no grievance, and that there would be no redress. The reply of the Quebec government was that they would themselves furnish a remedy. Upon receiving notice of this, the counsel for the Protestant minority asked that the time fixed for hearing the appeal should be postponed. In the meantime the Quebec government conceded to the Protestant minority what the latter asked. The difficulty was settled and the appeal, of course, was never heard. Thus the Protestants of Quebec made the first appeal to Ottawa under the appeal clause in the constitution, and thereby they obtained from Quebec the measure of relief they demanded.

Upon the whole case I submit, Mr. Editor, that Protestants cannot justly contend that the provision for appeal to Ottawa, so essential to the minority of Quebec, shall be a dead letter when invoked by the minority in another province. To me the conclusion is irresistible that we cannot allow the right of appeal to be less effective for Roman Catholics than for our own co-religionists in Quebec. The framers of confederation clearly intended that the federal powers should extend protection alike to both; the constitution itself made it so, and we of the Protestant faith cannot in justice claim for ourselves an advantage that we deny to the other party to the compact.

Looking at the means taken by parliament, on Mr. Blake's suggestion in 1890, to have all the questions of fact and of law that were involved in the controversy fully considered before an independent tribunal, in order to assist the government and parliament in determining, not only whether there was a right of appeal in this particular case, but whether upon all the facts any relief is due to the minority; looking at the most thorough investigation into all the facts made in the Barrett and Logan cases; looking at the full and careful enquiry into the whole question by that tribunal in those cases and in the appeal case; and looking at the judgment of the privy council upon the appeal, I do not see how it is possible for the federal government to

ignore the grievance. Nor do I see how it will be possible for parliament to refuse redress if in the end this province itself will not settle the question.

And yet I would deplore any necessity for federal intervention. Admitting the power of parliament to intervene; admitting indeed that under possible circumstances the duty may be cast upon it of intervening, it will be a most unfortunate thing for Manitoba if parliament shall have to pass laws affecting our school system. The true place to get the matter settled is in our own legislature.

We are on the eve of a general election in the province. The provincial ministers make their appeal to the electors as the champions of provincial rights, and as opposed to federal intervention; they make their appeal also as the upholders of the present system and as opposed to making any concessions. No one, I suppose, doubts—I certainly do not—that they will be returned to power with a very large majority of their backs. The new legislature is to meet within a month. At that time it is scarcely to be expected that any remedial legislation will have been finally passed at Ottawa. I venture still to hope that one of the first acts of the local administration, in the new house, will be to bring down a measure making reasonable concessions to the minority—concessions which may be found acceptable as affording reasonable redress, while leaving the present law to its general operation.

I sincerely trust it may be so. If I mistake not, the signs of the times point to the probability that a new lease of power being thus secured, some such measure will ere long be brought down by ministers to the new legislature; should such expectations be realized the future only can tell whether the measure to be brought down will furnish a final solution for this vexed and difficult problem now confronting, not Manitoba alone, but the Dominion at large. For myself I cling to the hope that the question is shortly to be settled so that the federal parliament will never be called upon to put the proposed remedial legislation on the statute book.

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