

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,—THE PETITION OF
THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION OF PROTESTANT TEACHERS
OF LOWER CANADA,

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

That, notwithstanding the legislative union of Upper and Lower Canada, there exists in each portion of the united provinces a distinct educational system.

That, under the educational law of Lower Canada, and in consequence of the denominational character of the schools of the Roman Catholic majority, your Majesty's subjects professing the Protestant faith are subjected to serious disadvantages: first, in being deprived of the benefits of a general system of education similar to that enjoyed by their fellow-subjects in Upper Canada; secondly, in their liability to be taxed for the support of Roman Catholic schools; and, thirdly, in the difficulties which they experience in establishing non-denominational or separate schools and seminaries of higher education for themselves.

That, though the injury thus inflicted on education has been the subject of frequent complaints on the part of the Protestant population, and, as your petitioners believe, has tended to discourage the settlement of Protestants in this Province, and has caused many families to leave this country for others in which they might avoid such inconveniences, no remedy has hitherto been granted by the Legislature.

That, in prospect of the Confederation of the Provinces, under the constitution adopted at the Quebec Conference, by which it was proposed that education should be under the control of the local legislatures, the Protestants of Lower Canada became alarmed lest they should continue to labour under these disadvantages; and, to allay the feeling thus generally existing, solemn pledges were made by members of the Government, that the grievances complained of should be redressed by Parliamentary action before Confederation.

That, though a bill for this purpose was introduced by Government in the last session of the legislature, it was almost immediately withdrawn: and unless provisions to this end can be introduced into the imperial Act of Confederation, your memorialists fear that their educational rights will be left to the control of the majority in the local legislature, without any guarantee whatever.

That, while your petitioners would prefer a general and non-denominational system of education, they believe that so long as the present system of separate schools shall continue in Lower Canada, they may justly claim the following privileges as constitutional rights which should in no way depend on the vote of the local legislature:—

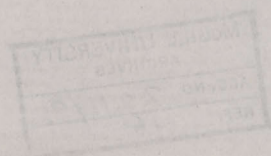
1. That all direct taxes for the support of schools, paid by Protestants, unless otherwise designated by themselves, should be applied to Protestant, or non-denominational education; and that all public money given for the same purpose should be divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics in proportion to population.

2. That suitable and adequate provision should be made for the protection of the educational interests of Protestants, in the management of educational funds, the establishment and proper classification of schools and institutions of superior education, and generally in the administration of educational affairs.

Wherefore, your memorialists humbly pray your Most Gracious Majesty to take their case as above stated, into your favourable consideration, with a view to the introduction of proper and just safe-guards into the Imperial Act of Confederation, should such act be passed.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

[Signed by the President of the Association and others.]



TO THE QUEEN & MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY - THE EMPIRESS OF
THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION OF PROTESTANT TEACHERS
OF LOWER CANADA.

HUMBLY SHOWN:--

That notwithstanding the legislative union of Upper and Lower Canada, there exists in each portion of the united provinces a distinct educational system.

That under the educational law of Lower Canada, and in consequence of the dominant national character of the schools of the Roman Catholic majority, your Majesty's subjects professing the Protestant faith are subjected to serious disadvantages: that in being deprived of the benefits of a general system of education similar to that enjoyed by their fellow-subjects in Upper Canada; accordingly, in their inability to be lazed for the support of Roman Catholic schools; and, thirdly, in the difficulties which they experience in establishing non-denominational or separate schools and seminaries of higher education for themselves.

That though the inquiry thus instituted on education has been the subject of frequent complaints on the part of the Protestant population, and as your petitioners believe, has tended to discourage the settlement of Protestants in this Province, and has caused many families to leave this country for others in which they might avoid such inconveniences, no remedy has hitherto been granted by the Legislature.

That in prospect of the Confederation of the Provinces under the constitution adopted at the Quebec Conference, by which it was proposed that education should be under the control of the local legislatures, the Protestants of Lower Canada being alarmed that they should continue to labor under these disadvantages; and to ally the feeling that generally existing, solemn pledges were made by one part of the Government, that the educational rights of the Protestants should be preserved, and that the same should be maintained.

That though a bill for this purpose was introduced by Government in the last session of the Legislature, it was almost immediately withdrawn, and unless provision is made that can be introduced into the Imperial Act of Confederation, your petitioners fear that their educational rights will be left to the control of the majority in the next Legislature, without any guarantee whatever.

That while your petitioners would prefer a general and non-denominational system of education, they believe that so long as the present system of separate schools shall continue in Lower Canada they justly claim the following privileges as constitutional rights which should in no way depend on the vote of the Legislature:--

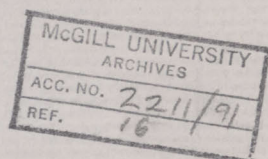
1. That all direct taxes for the support of schools, paid by Protestants, unless otherwise designated, by themselves, should be applied to Protestant or non-denominational education; and that all public money given for the same purpose should be divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics in proportion to population.

2. That suitable and adequate provision should be made for the protection of the educational interests of Protestants in the management of educational funds, the establishment and proper regulation of schools and institutions of superior education, and generally in the administration of educational affairs.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray your Most Excellent Majesty to take that case as above stated, and your favorable consideration, with a view to the introduction of proper and just safeguards into the Imperial Act of Confederation, should such be passed.

And your petitioners will ever remain

Respectfully by the President of the Association and others



To the Queen's Most
Excellent Majesty

The Memorial of the
Governors, Principal
and Fellows of McGill
College, Montreal

Humbly Sheweth

Montreal

That in prospect of the
changes contemplated in the
political constitution of Canada,
the Corporation of McGill College,
as ^{or representatives} representatives of the oldest
University in this country, and
the most important education-
al institution under the con-
-trol of that portion of the
population of Lower Canada
which is of British Origin,
would desire humbly to pre-
-sent the following statements
in regard to the condition and
prospects of education :-

That under that provi-
-sion of the constitution agreed
to at the Quebec conference,
which places the entire con-
-trol of education under the
local governments, one of the
most

most important interests of Your Majesty's subjects in this country will, unless adequate guarantees shall be introduced into the Imperial Act, be left at the mercy of local interests and feelings, and will be deprived of those enlarging and improving influences which are anticipated from the union of the Provinces.

With regard to University education, it is much to be desired that as far as possible there should be a uniform standard for degrees, and that the degrees of any university in British America should be recognized throughout the whole confederation, and also that the undue multiplication of Universities which has become so great an evil in the United States as well as in some parts of these provinces should be arrested. These most desirable results can in the opinion of Your Memorialists be secured only by placing an effective control over these important interests in the hands of the General Government and Legislature.

With regard to the Schools
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ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211/91
REF. 15 b

it is to be observed that, under the existing union of Upper and Lower Canada, two distinct School Systems have been established; and that the system existing in Lower Canada having led to the classification and arrangement of Schools and School districts rather in accordance with the educational views of the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church than with the wants and wishes of the Protestant minority, the latter have even under the present constitution, been subjected to serious disadvantages in regard to the education of their children. More especially they have not been able to obtain the benefits of a general system of Education with public and properly classified Schools as enjoyed by their fellow Subjects of Upper Canada, they have under certain circumstances of not infrequent occurrence, been liable to taxation for the support of Schools exclusively Roman Catholic in character, they have not enjoyed the privileges in regard to the establishment of Separate Schools, which have been

been accorded to the Roman Catholic minority of Upper Canada, and they have had occasion to complain of the distribution of the Legislative Grants more especially to Superior education. Further, though the Protestant minority in Lower Canada embraces a large proportion of the wealth, education and science of this country, it has not been represented in any of the offices of the educational department.

That these evils have been grievously felt by the protestant population, even under the existing union with Upper Canada, and that the representatives of the protestant constituencies consented to the arrangements of the Quebec Conference for dissolution of the Union, only after distinct pledges on the part of the Government that at least the more important of these grievances would be redressed by legislative action before confederation. But these pledges have not been fulfilled, and a measure of an imperfect character which was introduced by Govern-
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ACC. NO.	2211/91
REF.	15 d

ment in the last Session of the legislature, was withdrawn. In these circumstances it appears absolutely necessary that provisions should be introduced into the Imperial Act of Confederation to afford adequate protection to protestant educational interests, by the amendment of the existing School Law, and also by empowering the General Government and Legislature to interfere in behalf of the Minority.

Your Memorialists would also represent that while in other colonies munificent endowments have been made out of the public domain for institutions of higher education, no such grants have ever been made in Lower Canada, and that while our fellow Subjects of French origin have enjoyed the benefits of large endowments in land given before the conquest, and in some instances subsequently confirmed by the liberality of the British Government, the Protestant population of Lower Canada have been placed in an exceptional position of disadvantage; and but for the endowment⁺ of M^r. McGill

+ by

McGill and the liberal contribu-
tions of other benefactors, would
not have had access to the benefits
of a Collegiate education except
in institutions under the exclu-
sive control of the Roman Catho-
lic church.

It is, however, well known
to Your Memorialists that it
was the intention of the British
Government that such Protestants
as had settled or should settle
in Lower Canada should enjoy
the same educational benefits
+ qu which were awarded by royal liberality to
the inhabitants of other colonies.

In evidence of this they
may state that

The Gov-
ernor in Chief in 1801 laid before the Provincial Parliament a message
in the following terms:

“That His Majesty had been graciously pleased to give directions for
the establishment of a competent number of Free Schools, for the
instruction of children in the first rudiments of useful learning, and in
the English tongue, and for foundations of a more enlarged and compre-
hensive nature, and that His Majesty had been further pleased to signify
His Royal intention that a suitable proportion of the lands of the Crown
should be set apart, and the revenues thereof appropriated to such
purposes.” As a preliminary step, the Act incorporating the Royal
Institution for the Advancement of Learning was passed, containing this
message in its preamble; and thereafter, it was intended that the “liberal
grant of Crown Lands,” referred to in the message, should be transferred
to its control, in trust for Free Schools and “Foundations of a more
enlarged and comprehensive nature,”—but no grant was ever made,

though at the time when the
Hon. James McGill made his
bequest for the foundation of
McGill College, it was believed
that such grants would be
made, and his endowment
was placed in the hands of
the

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ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 221/91
REF. 15 f

the Royal Institution under the belief that the intentions of the Crown would be carried into effect.

At a later period the Royal Institution

~~Grant from the Crown Lands, but the Members of the Royal Institution,~~ subsequently were led to expect that they would have been saved the heavy expense of erecting the College buildings, and that the endowment would have been rendered available for its future support. In the early part of 1819, the Lord Bathurst, then Colonial Secretary, instructed the Governor General, the Duke of Richmond, to adopt, with as little delay as possible, the necessary measures for erecting upon Mr. McGill's property an adequate building for the instruction of youth, and His Grace was authorized to defray the expense thereof from the funds which might be in the hands of the Receiver of the Jesuits' Estates.

But these liberal intentions on the part of His Majesty were not carried into effect; and finally the control of the public lands was given to the Provincial Legislature, which has proved unable or unwilling to fulfil these engagements of the Crown, and which for many years gave no aid whatever to the University. In 1854 a small amount of aid was given as an annual grant, but this has in subsequent years been diminished to a very trifling sum, and this derived from a fund which is already too small for the growing wants of the preparatory schools.

For more full details of the wants and claims of the University Your Memorialists would

would refer to their petition on this subject presented to His Excellency the Governor General in 1865 and a copy of which accompanies the present memorial.

Your Memorialists would further state that during the administration of Sir Edmund Head, these claims of the University were to some extent acknowledged by a loan of £10,000 ~~secured~~, from funds under the management of the Imperial Government; but that though this loan was the means of relieving the University from immediate pecuniary difficulties, it was obtained by mortgage on portions of the land and Buildings of the College, and should this amount be reclaimed by the Government, serious embarrassment to the University might result.

That Your Memorialists and the Protestant population of Lower Canada hold that in equity an obligation rests upon the Imperial as well as upon the Provincial Government to aid in securing an adequate endowment for institutions of the higher education.

tion in this country, on that broad general basis of non-denominational and public utility on which this University rests; but that Your Memorialists write specially referring to the case of the University, with which they are more immediately connected, would even more strongly insist on those general constitutional guarantees which are required for the protection of the rights of the Protestant minority in Lower Canada, whether in regard to Common Schools or Institutions of higher learning.

Your Memorialists would further state their willingness to give any further information or explanations and to support by documentary or other evidence the statements of this Memorial, should such information or evidence be desired.

Wherefore Your Memorialists would humbly pray Your to take
 the subjects above referred to into Your favourable consideration with the view to the introduction of proper and just safeguards into the Imperial Act of Confederation, should such act be passed.

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 Memorial
 to
 the
 Hon.
 Secy.
 of
 the
 Privy
 Council
 1841

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ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	221/91
REF.	151

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Memorial of the
Army

1826