

20 avril 1917

Copy.

Chatham, N.B. April 20th. 1917.

Very Reverend P. Lebestard, C.J.M.
Provincial,
West Bathurst, N.B.

Very Reverend Father:-

In reference to your letter of the 30th, ult. I beg to say that it is quite evident that you are unwilling to accept any of the offers made to you for the rebuilding of the College burned at Caraque, that you do not show any desire to abide by the direction and guidance of the Bishop of the Diocese in the matter and that you imply a resolution to remove the educational part of your institution if your wishes are not complied with and permission given to you to rebuild both institutions in West Bathurst.

I regret that my duty as Bishop of the whole Diocese does not permit me to listen as freely as I personally might do to the plaintive note in your letter based upon a demand for sympathy in your recent losses, nor to consider as decisive reasons for your request the opinion of a certain number of priests and lay people who are not in a position to see the matter from every point of view.

In as much, however, as a College is a necessity for the Diocese and as I appreciate the sacrifices your Community has made in an effort to carry on the work, rather than to see you carry out your implied resolution of abandoning it, I would under certain conditions acquiesce in its being rebuilt in a location which I consider of less value for the efficiency of its work from a Diocesan point of view standpoint. These conditions I feel bound to require in justice to the other works of the Diocese and of the parishes concerned, and are as follows:

1st: In justice to the wishes of the late Mgr. Allard, as expressed in the "projet d'accord", and which as Bishop I feel obliged to interpret as written and not otherwise, and in accordance with the Decree "Romanos Pontifices" the administration of the Parish of Caraque must be returned to the Bishop of the Diocese and the Bishop will be free to give you temporary charge of it as he deems advisable. The handing over of this parish "in perpetuum" was because of a special work in said parish, and as the work no longer continues there the special reason no longer exists.

2nd: The lands and buildings donated to your Community by the late Mgr. Allard for the purpose of education in the said parish of

Caraquet, copal Cor with the Pontifice on the 7th 1916, at of Caraque West. I r following in that m settled l

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Caraquet, in so far as they now exist, must be returned to the Episcopal Corporation to be held in trust for that purpose in accordance with the agreement approved by the Holy See and the decree "Romanos Pontifices". As made known to you when you visited me at Chatham on the 7th of January, 1916, and met me some days later, Jan. 17th, 1916, at Caraquet, a settlement should be made regarding the affairs of Caraquet before anything could be determined on about Bathurst West. I repeated the same to you by letters during the month of March following, but you showed no disposition to comply with my wishes in that matter. Had you done so then the whole business might have been settled long ago.

3rd: In order that the Youth of the Diocese, especially the French-speaking youth who for the most part attend your College, may not be deprived of an opportunity to become proficient in both languages the new college that would be built in West Bathurst would open and continue with the same stipulations concerning the two languages that were contained in the "projet d'accord" under which the College of Caraquet was opened.

4th: Since the opening of such another College in close proximity to St. Thomas may make it extremely difficult or impossible to carry on the work therein, in case St. Thomas be obliged to close, your Community will make ample provision for an English-speaking classical and commercial course to be given to the English speaking youth who would in that case attend the College at West Bathurst or be absolutely deprived of any opportunity of obtaining a higher education in their own language in the Diocese.

If your Community be willing to accept freely these conditions as above expressed I am prepared to draw up and submit a new "Agreement" permitting the rebuilding of the College at West Bathurst to be signed by the Bishop and your Community and to be sent to Rome for approval. If not, I will simply draw up a "Memo" of the whole question, and sending it to the Holy See, await its decision in the matter.

With every best wish,
I am

Yours very truly in Xto.

Thos. F. Barry

Bishop of Chatham.