

the assertion made in several newspapers that the power of thus changing the limits of municipalities has been used by the Education Department with a view to breaking up Protestant school-districts. It is equally unjust and still more absurd to say that the law was framed with that object. The great difficulty which was at first felt in organizing municipalities, was the evident motive of that discretionary power left to the executive. When there was great opposition to school assessment, it was only by organizing such portions of parishes as were prepared and could be induced to work out the school law that the system could be put in operation. It was thus that sections of parishes were furnished with schools one after another until the operation of the school law was extended over the whole. Other reasons, of practical convenience, also required that certain portions of a parish or township, as constituted for municipal purposes, should be detached for school purposes; in fact, that provision is itself a protection to minorities, Catholic as well as Protestant, and has been used as such in the readjustment of the limits of parishes and townships.

We also deny that the changes effected through the Governor General's Proclamations are made without notifying the parties interested. On the first instance of a complaint of this nature, the present Superintendent made it a standing rule that, in all cases, notice should be sent to the School Commissioners and Trustees of all the municipalities concerned whenever an application was made to the Department; and no action is ever taken until an answer has been received, or a sufficient time has elapsed to show that there is no desire to offer any objection. If any party objects however, the matter is referred to the Inspector for report.

The printed form of notice sent in such cases has been in use in the Education Office for several years past.

Although the law does not warrant any ratepayer residing within the limits of one municipality in sending his children and paying taxes to the Dissident school of another municipality, yet in cases of hardship the Superintendent has advised the School Commissioners to grant this privilege, although he could not of course compel them to follow his advice.

In numerous instances, the Dissidents, Protestant as well as Catholic, are paid their share of the grant although they cannot bring together the required number of children. In other cases, the Dissidents of two adjoining municipalities have been allowed to have but one *united school* for the two municipalities, although to legalize their proceedings they have been advised to elect School Trustees in each parish. Such is the case, for instance, of the Protestant Dissidents at St. Joseph and St. Eustache, in the County of Two Mountains, and at St. Grégoire and Ste. Marie de Monnoir, in the County of Rouville.

We state these facts, not with a view of opposing any change in the law that would provide increased facilities for Dissidents, but in order to show that this grievance has been misunderstood and misstated; and that, far from having been aggravated by the action of the Education Department, it has been palliated as much as possible.