

"It is very doubtful whether education has advanced one step through the ministry of the Inspector. With all the good intentions in the world, his powers are too limited to enable him to act efficiently; it is absolutely necessary under the present system, that he should exercise a control over the Commissioners. These sir, are the few remarks which I deem it my duty to submit to your Committee. I communicate them to you with a desire to see the present system of education amended."

Rev'd. Mr. *Trahan*, (Shipton.) "I must declare to you that I am totally incapable of answering the different questions contained in your letter. In the five Townships in which I officiate, which are Ely, Melbourne, Shipton, Windsor and Tinwick, I do not know of one single catholic school; but I can assure you that in several parts of these Townships, the school law is very badly executed, for instance, in the upper part of Melbourne and the adjacent part of Ely, where there is yet no school, although means would not be wanting if these places were visited and organized. In the upper part of Shipton, there is no school either, and a certain Commissioner or delegate who neither knows how to read or write, collects assessments from the inhabitants in Tinwick; the Township is a catholic one. There are certainly 300 children capable of attending school and waiting to do so. There is not a single school. Now as to the visit, I shall not say to the schools, for there never have been any, but to these places, I remember having met last summer one of the Inspectors who told me he was on his way to visit Tinwick in order to organize schools there; it was the first time I had seen a school Inspector in the Townships. At present I do not know what he said and much less what he did—for the school system always works in the same way, that is to say, that there is no school in the different places already mentioned in this communication."

Rev'd. Mr. *Quintal*, (St. Luc.) By no means. Absence.

Rev'd. Mr. *Belle-isle*, (St. Hémédine.) Says that the causes which retard education are the want of instruction in the teachers, the low salary which is allowed them, the little zeal shewn by the Commissioners, of whom it may be said that the majority have no education and that they do not know how to appreciate its benefits.

Rev'd. Mr. *Dorion*, (Drummondville.) "The causes which in our Municipality have retarded the cause of instruction are:

1. "The difficulty of collecting the money by law authorised to be levied for School purposes;

2. "The opposition shewn by certain rate-payers to the School Law.

"In our Municipality the number of non-resident proprietors is considerable. There are even a great many lots of land the proprietors of which are not known. These proprietors reside in different parts of the country, in different districts, some even out of the country, so that it becomes nearly impossible to levy the amount of the assessments due by some of them, and they can only be obtained from certain others a long time after they are due. It is easy to imagine the expenses, the proceedings and the delays occasioned by suits before different Courts and in different districts, when it is necessary to have recourse to them. Sometimes the different sums due by each are so small, taken separately, that it is not thought expedient to take legal proceedings to recover them. Sometimes it is impossible to do so; under the provisions of the present law a suit cannot be instituted for the recovery of a sum less than £10 when the prosecution would carry with it the sale of immoveable property, and this is always the case when necessary to sue a person who does not reside in the country. In this case the judgment cannot be executed until the lapse of five years from the time the amount demanded has become due. It is then impossible to levy the assessments in proper time. On the other hand the Government grant has not exceeded for some