

Interpretation of Separate Schools Act Amendments.

THE DECISION AT OSGOODE HALL.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AND THE ANSWERS.

The duty of the Assessor—The Question of Rates when notice has not been given.

It will be remembered that the Minister of Education submitted a number of questions to the Chancery Divisional Court regarding the construction to be placed upon certain amendments to the Separate Schools Act. Decisions on the points submitted were given at Osgoode Hall, by Chancellor Boyd and Mr. Justice Robertson, on the questions, together with the full text of the answers, as follows :—

FIRST QUESTION.

Is or is not a ratepayer, who has not, by himself or his agent, given notice in accordance with the last foregoing section (section 40 of the Separate Schools Act), entitled to exemption from the payment of rates imposed for the support of Public Schools or for other Public School purposes, as in that section mentioned.

Answer—If the assessor is satisfied with the *prima facie* evidence of the statement made by or on behalf of any ratepayer that he is a Roman Catholic, and thereupon (seeking and having no further information) places such person upon the assessment roll as a Separate School supporter, this ratepayer, though he may not by himself or his agent have given notice in writing pursuant