

In 1877, the provision was made for an appeal to the Court of Revision in such matters, in order to protect the taxpayer; and every taxpayer had the right of appeal in respect of every assessment, whether of his own or of another. Such appeals are provided because the approved policy of the law is that the assessment roll when finally revised should be conclusive for all purposes, and not open to future question; yet it may occasionally happen that, for example, I may be taxed for not one-half of what I ought to pay taxes for, or I may claim some exemption to which I am not entitled. In either case, if no one appeals, I get the benefit of the insufficient assessment, or of the unauthorised exemption. So it is with every case of assessment. A man may be charged too much, or he may be charged nothing when he ought to be charged a great deal, or he may be charged something when he ought to be charged nothing. Yet the propriety of making the assessment roll when finally revised to be binding on everyone has always been manifested.

He (the Attorney-General) had heard objection made to their legislation in regard to Separate Schools on the ground that it had increased the efficiency of those schools, and this is another of the objections not recently heard. In answer to it he might say that it had never been the policy of Protestants or of any Government to object to Roman Catholic education being efficient. On the contrary, the view that had been taken, and he thought the right view, was that if they must have Separate Schools they should be as efficient as possible (Cheers). The Bill of the hon. member for North Grey proceeded on this view, and he should be sorry to think that any Protestants would favor a different course.

In the present debate some things have been objected to which are not dealt with by any of the Opposition Bills before the House. For instance, something has been said in debate about the inspection of Separate Schools, and the payment of the Inspectors by the Province.

Now what are the facts?

In Dr. Ryerson's time he directed the Inspectors of the High Schools to do duty as Inspectors of Separate Schools, and they were paid by the Province. Experience has demonstrated and everyone admits that the inspection of schools is essential to their efficiency. No one can question that. If the schools are to be efficient they must have thorough inspection and by capable men. The inspection of Separate Schools, as he had already said, was in the first instance performed by Provincial officers, the High School Inspectors. The reason another system of inspection was