

"The Superintendent himself knows well enough that the law is not at all decisive on this point, that it settles nothing about non residents, and this is the very reason why, a year ago, he had entrusted to Mr. Sicotte a bill *to put in the law the very thing which the judge imagines to have been already found there.*"

On this the *Montreal Gazette* said :

"This is so like an unblinking untruth that we scarcely know how otherwise to characterize it. The clause does just what all men of common sense see ought to be done,—it puts the non-resident ratepayer upon the same footing as the resident in respect to the appropriation of his taxes for the support of the schools. It does not therefore support Judge Short's decision for the future, but abrogates it."

We still believe that the passing of the clause above alluded to would set this matter at rest. The question of taxes paid by incorporated companies is one of greater difficulty. It cannot be said that such companies belong to one religion or to another, and it would be impossible to discriminate between the proportion of shares held by Protestants and by Catholics respectively; perhaps the easiest and most equitable manner would be to divide taxes levied on companies, or public bodies, between the Commissioners and the Dissentient Trustees, where Dissentient schools are established, in the same proportion as the Government grant.

After this, the most important subject discussed at the meeting was that of the formation of school municipalities. Much misunderstanding seems to exist on the subject. It has been frequently stated that Dissentients were not allowed to establish their own school-districts. Now there is nothing in the law which prevents Dissentients from dividing the municipality for their own purposes into as many school-districts as they require, and this has actually been done repeatedly without any interference on the part of the School Commissioners or of the Department. The only difficulty of this kind that we have heard of was in a case in which Protestant Dissentients complained of the division made by the Catholic School Commissioners of their own school-districts, because they thought that division might prove injurious to them in case they should abandon their dissent and return to the School Commissioners. The fact is that the Law says expressly "that the said Trustees may constitute their own school-districts independently of the school-districts of the School Commissioners," (4th subsection of the 57th section.)

The real difficulty consists in the fact that in some instances small scattered bodies of the minority (Catholic as well as Protestant), living on the borders of different municipalities, cannot combine to have a school in common. This restriction, or rather want of power to organize, is more severely felt, it is alleged, from the fact that the division of old municipalities into new, when brought about either by act of Parliament, or under the Municipal Act or the law for the establishment of parishes, or by a Proclamation from the Governor, often breaks up Dissentient school-districts.

On this head we need hardly repel as a most infamous calumny