

of having an error connected, quickly by communicating with the assessor. Most of you know that the assessors' duty was to give this information as to how a ratepayer is assessed; and any of you who do not know can learn at once by referring to the R. S. O., 1887, p. 2156, Sch. B., column 7. Further, the appeal provided may be by any ratepayer, and it may be by even a Protestant ratepayer, and either at the request of the Roman Catholic ratepayer wrongly placed, or even contrary to his wish. The mode of appeal is the simplest which ingenuity and experience have yet been able to devise; and it may be in a form requiring the minimum of courage from the ratepayer concerned, or even requiring none at all, which would be the case if taken by a Protestant.

These amendments are among those of which I have said that no Roman Catholic clergyman had anything to do with even suggesting them; and I have reason to believe that no Roman Catholic bishop or priest knew anything of the amendments of 1877 being thought of until he saw the bill after its introduction into the Legislative Assembly. But they were obviously just amendments, and no objection was made to them from that quarter, or any other. The amendments were made in the general interest, and incidentally had advantages for Roman Catholics. To understand this it is necessary to say something of the notice which was necessary in order to exempt a Roman Catholic ratepayer from the Public School tax.

NOTICE CLAIMING EXEMPTION.

This method of exemption was provided for by a statute passed by the old Province of Canada in 1855, thirty-four years ago, and has been in force ever since. The words of the enactment as to notice were these:—

"Every person paying rates, whether as proprietor or tenant, who, by himself or his agent, on or before the first day of March in any year, gives to the Clerk of the municipality notice in writing that he is a Roman Catholic and supporter of a Separate School situated in the said municipality, or in a municipality contiguous thereto, shall be exempted from the payment of all rates imposed for the support of Common Schools and of Common School libraries, or for the purchase of land or erection of buildings for Common School purposes within the city, town, incorporated village or section in which he resides, for the then current year and every subsequent year thereafter while he continues a supporter of a Separate School, and such notice shall not be required to be renewed annually."

This provision was very defective; and it was more defective from a general or Protestant standpoint than from a Roman