

negotiations with the government of Manitoba, and a new method of dealing with religion in the schools has been adopted.

At the late session of the Legislature an Act was passed removing the power of making regulations for religious exercises from the hands of the Advisory Board, and appointing half an hour at the close of each school for the giving of religious instruction. A certain proportion of Roman Catholic teachers are to be employed. During the day up to 3.30 all division of pupils according to religious denominations is forbidden. At that hour a clergyman or his deputy is to be allowed to give instruction to those of his own belief. A very important clause of the Act is that giving the Department of Education power to make regulations not inconsistent with the Act. On these regulations everything will depend so far as working out this scheme in mixed populations, such as that of the city of Winnipeg is concerned. It is not impossible that many of the schools of the Province may adopt the former religious exercises for those who choose to retain them.

These are some of the features of the religious difficulty in the Manitoba schools. The people of the Province take much pride in their schools. All visitors to the Province are surprised at the splendid school-buildings in the centres of population, at the large subsidy given for education by the provincial government, viz., 30 per cent. of the total revenue, at the high qualifications required for teachers, and at the remarkable progress made in numbers from 16 Protestant and 17 Catholic schools in 1871 to upwards of 1000 in 1897. If the remarkable school discussions of the last seven years have done nothing else, they have led the people to regard the education of the young as the prime necessity in a progressive province.