

vince, and the right or privilege of Roman Catholics to have and maintain schools under the direction and control of their church, was not only permitted but legalized. This educational condition continued in the province from 1870 until 1890. The children of 1870 had grown to maturity under its operation, and many had themselves become parents of families.

In the meantime, by reason of the influx of immigration, the population had vastly increased. The great majority of the immigrants being Protestants, an agitation for the abolition of Roman Catholic separate or denominational schools was commenced and carried on for some time. This agitation was finally given effect to by the passage by the Manitoba Legislature in 1890, of two Acts relating to education. One of these created a Department of Education and an "Advisory Board." The Advisory Board was empowered to authorize text-books, and to prescribe the form of "religious exercises to be used in schools." The other Act, termed "The Public Schools' Act," purported to establish a system of public education entirely "non-sectarian," no religious exercises being allowed, except those conducted according to the regulations prescribed by the Advisory Board.

The effect of these acts was to do away with all separate and denominational schools as legal establishments, and to create one public school system for the whole province, under the control of a Minister and Department of Education and of an Advisory Board. The Roman Catholic minority were deprived of the legal right of collecting taxes from their own people to support their separate schools, and were compelled to pay taxes in support of the public schools created under the Act. Under