

hence the necessity of the heads of families being left to make their own voluntary arrangements. We are to recollect also that a national system is not intended to make Protestants. Neither is its object to make Catholics. The Municipal Council can have nothing to do with this or that particular profession of faith. Its special concern should be the protection of the public morals, by means of all available instrumentalities, whether Protestant or Catholic. If numbers of the Protestant poor are ignorant, and will not receive instruction except through a Protestant channel, by all means let them be accommodated. So that they become possessed of a proper education, it is of little consequence through what particular medium they prefer to receive it. Similarly with the numbers of the Catholic poor, who can neither read nor write, but who would make better subjects and better citizens if endowed with the simple rudiments of learning which are taught in a primary school, would it be prudent, or would it be carrying out the aim of a public school system or the intentions of the Legislature, to withhold instruction because they refuse to accept it in any other than a Catholic garb? Certainly not.

As religion should form an element of instruction, and in order to secure this it is necessary to secure the co-operation of the clergy and congregations; and as the only way to do this is to make the organization and management of the schools acceptable to them, it is therefore indispensable that each school should have a specific religious character; and for this reason, and in accordance with the constitutional law of majorities, the religion of the school should be that of the majority who support it. When a mixed population of Protestants and Catholics is sufficiently numerous, each should have a separate school, or schools, proportioned in size or number to the probable or prospective average attendance in each. If any other Protestant denomination is sufficiently numerous to support a school it should have one on the application of a determinate number of the heads of families. As the religion of the school should be that of the majority who support it, the management should be in the hands of the clergyman and religious congregation of that majority; an exceptional provision being made, that no child of another religious persuasion shall receive or be present at the religious lessons or exercises, if the parents object; and also, that poor children, whose parents are unable to pay the school fees, shall be admitted free of charge.

A Board of examiners would be required in each municipality, to examine the qualifications of teachers, and for the granting of certificates. It should consist of the School Committee of the Council, the Local Superintendent and the Government Inspector, with the Warden or Mayor presiding.

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