

unite in a common system of Public Schools. He would be glad if the Roman Catholic population did the same, but they could not be forced to do so.

There had been a good deal of criticism, the Attorney-General continued, upon the enactments in regard to Separate Schools since Confederation. Some of the criticism has been abandoned. Amongst many other things which used to be said and are said no longer, one was that there was no power of appeal to the Court of Revision from an assessment as a Separate School supporter. The hon. member for London in a former session had said it was a doubtful matter.

MR. MEREDITH.—I said that others thought it doubtful, but my own opinion was that it was not so.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—At all events others said that there was no appeal to the Court of Revision. He (Mr. Mowat) had always insisted that there was an appeal, and that there was no reasonable doubt of it. He had said so before the decision of the Judges here. Since that decision no one doubts, if any doubted before, that there is an appeal to the Court of Revision.

#### THE GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED

that in some way or other that question would be brought before the High Court at an earlier date by those who affirmed that no such appeal lay, but it was not brought before the High Court until the Minister of Education himself recently brought it there. The question has now been judicially set at rest.

Another thing upon which a great deal has been said was the condition of the law respecting the notices which have to be given in order to exempt Roman Catholics from the Public School tax. It used to be said that we had repealed the law which made these notices necessary, but I presume no one now doubts that a Roman Catholic should not under the existing law be assessed as a Separate School supporter, unless he has given written notice of his wish to be so. It appears that a practice had grown up of assuming all Roman Catholics to be Separate School supporters where the contrary did not appear. This practice is said to have prevailed, in some localities at least, before our legislation. It was considered in the various localities in which notices were omitted, whether after our legislation or before, that the matter was for the Roman Catholics themselves to deal with, and Protestants took no interest in it until political agitation gave prominence to the matter. In the legislation that the Government had introduced this session their object was to make the requirements of the original statute clear.