

These considerations do not appear to have occurred to our assailants when they assumed the notice enactment to have been repealed by us, and were endeavoring to make political capital out of the supposed repeal. The notice is not much of a burden; it has to be given but once; it has not to be repeated annually or otherwise; and it is doubted whether the Legislature has even the power to do away with it. It certainly has not attempted to do away with it.

My fellow Protestants in considering this amendment and all others should further bear in mind, that the administration of the law as affected by these amendments is in the hands of Protestants, and not in a single instance of Catholics; for Roman Catholic Separate Schools are only resorted to where the majority of the population in the municipality are Protestants. Protestants being the majority, and probably largely the majority, the assessors they appoint are Protestants; the members of the Municipal Council, or a majority of them, are Protestants; the members of the Court of Revision are Protestants; and in case of an appeal, I believe that in all Ontario there are but two Roman Catholic County Judges. The whole matter is thus in the hands of Protestants; and, obviously, there cannot be any substantial danger of the Act being perverted in the interest of Roman Catholics, contrary to its actual intention and legal meaning.

On the whole, I do not see how any thoughtful man when aware of the facts can have the least doubt that the amending enactments of 1877 and 1879 instead of being objectionable, taken together were great improvements, in the common interest of both Protestants and Roman Catholics.

One newspaper suggests that at the approaching session of the Legislature we "should amend the Separate School Act so as to render it easy for Separate School supporters to become supporters of the Public School." This is one of the many observations one reads or hears which show how much misunderstanding there is among those who write or speak against the Separate School law as it now stands. The fact is, that nothing can be more easy and simple than the way already provided. All that a Separate School supporter has to do is, to give notice to the Clerk of the municipality that he wishes to withdraw from the support of the Separate School, and the thing is done. (R.S.O., c. 227, s. 47.) Thenceforward he is no more liable to be rated for the Separate School than a Protestant is. The method provided is the extreme of simplicity.

So much for the two oldest of the amendments now assailed.