

they say "Does not that prove our case to a demonstration?" Of course it does, if that is all the law says upon the question; but

WHAT ABOUT SECTION FORTY,

which requires a Roman Catholic to give notice to the Clerk of the Municipality on or before the 1st of March that he is a Separate School supporter, otherwise he must be rated as a Public School supporter? Is it possible to determine the whole law without giving force and effect to every section? Did you ever hear of a lawyer or a Judge construing the law in this way? Do theologians so construe the Holy Scriptures? Do juries give verdicts on the evidence of one witness only, or the simple statement standing alone of one witness? Is it not the universally accepted rule in construing statutes that the purpose or intent of the Legislature must be ascertained, not from one clause or one phrase, but from the statute as a whole? Now, if this rule be applied to the case before us there can be but one conclusion reached, and that is, unless the ratepayer gives the notice required by section 40, neither the act of the Assessor nor of the Clerk can compel him to pay rates for Separate School purposes. Speaking on this point in 1886, the Attorney-General, who is usually considered a good authority (cheers) said, "The preliminary notice has not been dispensed with; on the contrary, it has been expressly continued by the 41st (sec. 40, R. S. O., 87) section of the Act of last session, the section which gives Roman Catholics exemption from school rates; and any ratepayer of the municipality may object to the exemption before the Court of Revision on the ground that the necessary preliminary notice was not given, and he may do so without the consent and even contrary to the wish of the ratepayer whose case is in question." (Long continued applause.)

But what are the objections raised to this interpretation of the law—objections raised,

NOT BY LAWYERS NOR BY JUDGES,

who are the accredited interpreters of the law, but by the opponents of the Government? (1) They say that "if it were not intended that the assessment roll should be taken as the basis for levying the school rates, why require the Assessor to distinguish at all between Catholics and Protestants, between Separate and Public School supporters?" The answer to that is easy. By the Separate Schools Act of 1863, in addition to the notice to be given to the Clerk under section 40 of the Separate Schools Act (that is section 14 of the old Act), "the trustees of every Separate