

## EDUCATION IN MANITOBA.



NY person acquainted with the Ontario system of public education has already a general idea of the educational system in Manitoba, but many details incident to circumstances, and diversity of opinion as to the best methods to be employed, naturally entail differences. The Manitoba school-system may be taken as a good sample of the educational systems of the various provinces of the Dominion, and it shall be the object of the writer to describe it as minutely and faithfully as possible in the limited space allowed him.

Previous to the establishment of the present system by "The Manitoba Public Schools Act" of 1890, there existed two separate school systems, known as the Catholic, and the Protestant separate schools, under the management of the Provincial Board of Education, the chairman of which was The Most Rev. the Metropolitan of Rupert's Land. This Board was resolved into two sections the Catholic and the Protestant. The Provincial Board made regulations for the general organization of the schools; registering and reporting of the daily attendance; calling of meetings from time to time, and notices thereof. The sections of the board made regulations for the government and discipline of the schools; licensing of teachers; selection of books, and in case of books having reference to religion and morals, such selections by the Catholic section of the board, were "subject to the approval of the competent religious authority"; the appointment of inspectors, etc. The taxes of the ratepayer were always paid for the support of the schools of his denomination and in no case could "a Protestant ratepayer be obliged to pay for a Catholic school, or a Catholic ratepayer for a Protestant school" (Manitoba School Act and the amendments thereto

of 1882-'83 and '84.) The change from separate to public schools was not brought about by any popular demand and was in direct violation of pledges made to the Catholics, that their schools would not be interfered with. When the change was effected the Protestant Board became the Public School Board of Education.

The Catholics in their first burst of indignation against the treatment they were receiving at the hands of the Greenway government, peremptorily refused to allow their schools to become Public schools, for while "the Act (of 1890) nominally abolished the Protestant as well as the Catholic schools, it actually made all schools Protestant, and transferred Catholic property to the Public Protestant schools." This quotation made from "The Church and Schools" by J. K. Barret LL.D., shews that the Catholics were deprived of their school property. Besides this, according to the new law, all schools that do not conform to the school act receive no government aid. The result was that some of these were closed for want of money to pay teachers. The Catholic schools of Winnipeg and other places, are maintained wholly by private subscriptions, each ratepayer paying his public school taxes, from which, personally, he derives no benefit, and also paying his own school taxes. A few Catholic school districts, it is averred, have accepted the government act, but if so, it is merely that they may continue school work, and in the hope that remedial legislation may come to their aid, and so enable them to return to the separate school system.

The schools are classified as Public, Intermediate, Collegiate, and the University. The Public schools are primarily intended to give an elementary education but many rural schools do third-class certificate work, which is intermediate work proper, and even a few prepare students for second-class certificates generally, however, to the detriment of the other pupils. The subjects taught are the ordinary ones considered necessary to an elementary