

had been misled by public rumors of this kind. At all events his statement suited admirably to the exigencies of the time as a special inducement to Protestant ratepayers to reconcile themselves to the heavy bill of expenses.

The rule adopted by the Board insisting on payment of a monthly fine by every Catholic pupil whose parents were not Public School supporters, looked like a virtual affirmation of the Inspector's story. For, if that class of Catholic pupils were not presumed to be very numerous, it would be hardly worth while for the Board to adopt this new and in respect of, at least, the two Separate School supporters, distinctly illegal method of increasing their resources by the levy of a small impost of 50 cents per month from them, which they reduced to 25c. for the children of soldiers. Accordingly we deemed it high time to settle the question of numbers. The task involved many difficulties. Reference to the assessment rolls did not supply us with exact information, since there might have been children in those schools whose parents' names do not appear as ratepayers, but who pay the monthly tax of 50c. There might also have been, as there were, some persons who had come to reside in Kingston after the assessment had been officially registered, and others who, having been assessed as Public School supporters at the beginning of the year, had subsequently transferred their children to the Separate Schools. There might also have been, as there were, children of mixed marriages, really Protestants and regular attendants in the Protestant Churches, whose father would be registered a Catholic on the Public School assessment roll. And, finally, there might have been, as there were, some pupils, children of soldiers residing in or about Fort Henry, in the Township of Pittsburg, whose names would appear on the school roll, undistinguished from the residents of Kingston, whilst their parents' names would not be found on either of the assessment rolls. Nothing therefore remained for us but to adopt the one effective and strictly legal method of ascertaining the number of really Catholic children of really Catholic parents, residents of Kingston, in attendance at the Public Schools. We accordingly sent our four assistant priests to the several Public Schools on a certain day to take the names of all the Catholic pupils from each school roll, and, after the termination of regular school hours, to inquire of them who their parents are and where they reside. At the same time we placed in the hands of each priest a printed copy of the Regulations of the Department of Education, among which is the following:

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