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SEPT 79

BRS

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SC/LP

Inspectors should be paid by the province out of general funds. Are not public school inspectors paid out of general funds? There are two in Victoria appointed by county council and paid out of general funds contributed by Catholic and Protestants alike, and these inspect all the public schools in the county. Now there is only one separate school in the county, and the counties could not therefore appoint inspectors, and the province appoints an inspector to inspect all separate schools in the province. Is not that fair?

BALLOT ACT.

In 1882 when an Orange member moved to have ballot in both public and separate schools, Meredith spoke and this is his speech:

"Mr. Meredith said at the time the Roman Catholics were asking for separate schools it was the conservative party who supported them in their claim, and obtained from them, at the risk of loss of seats and influence, their now recognised rights. It ill became the commissioner to accuse the hon. member of West Toronto of being hostile to the separate school system, and to attempt to make out that this alleged feeling was shared by the conservative party. It was the leader of the government who had been hostile to it, and had voted against the concession of the right to have separate schools. While he recognized the right of the Catholics to have separate schools, he did not see why no attempt should be made to improve the system. The commissioner said that the bill must be rejected because of the speech of the mover. According to him, a bill was to be rejected, not on its merits, but according to the speech delivered by the mover. He knew nothing of the state of separate schools in Toronto, but so far as London was concerned he believed they were well condoned. He did not favor forcing the ballot system upon the separate school supporters if they did not want it, but he supported the proposition to extend the ballot to the public school elections."

This is his speech as reported in the Mail, which was then the tory organ. This was the time he was trying to catch the Catholic vote. Sir John Macdonald had just won the Dominion elections by pandering to Lower Canadian Catholics, and Meredith thought he could do the same, to wit, see "Facts for Irish electors," which Mr. Kerwin, who was paid for writing it, swears was approved of by Mr. Meredith, and his speech shews he agrees with it. Now there is not compulsory ballot in public schools, and why should it be forced on them if they don't want it. If they or some of them want it and can't get it, and think they have a grievance, let them resent their own grievances; it does not concern Protestants. But do the people want it? The best answer to this is that the public schools in the townships have not adopted it; and why, because it would be expensive and troublesome for small school sections to go to the trouble of having ballots printed, with all the expense attending a municipal election. But if any Catholic elector has a grievance, and objects to the way the separate schools are run, he has a very simple remedy by refusing to become a separate school supporter, or giving notice that he discontinues if he is one.

THE HIERARCHY.

The conservatives pretend to be righteously indignant at the hierarchy as they say interfere with the management of the separate schools. The reformers object just as much but there is no power to interfere, and Mr. Meredith does not pretend that he can prevent it. The matter is part of their religion, and the Ontario government cannot interfere with it any more than they can with other doctrines of the Catholic church which they object to. Mr. Meredith said at Lindsay that the same thing occurred in New Jersey, and that they at once proposed to make it a highly penal offence to refuse sacraments or rites of the church to any person refusing to support separate schools. Now that is a matter relating to crime, and criminal law is a matter within jurisdiction of the Dominion government, and if the conservatives are sincere in the matter why don't they bring in and pass such an act where they have the power; but they are not sincere, and bring in buncombe resolutions in a house where they have no such power, simply to stir up religious cries.

TEACHERS.

The conservatives say: "Make the teachers in separate schools pass the same examinations as public school teachers." It cannot be done, and they know it. The original separate school act passed by them and guaranteed by the confederation act, provides: "That persons qualified by law as teachers in Upper or Lower Canada shall be considered qualified teachers under this act." This permits nuns to teach, and was so intended by the Tories when they passed the act. All that could be done by Mr. Mowat has been done.

RACE AND RELIGIOUS CRIES.

The above completely answers the base, cowardly religious cries, raised by the opposition. Read what Principal Caven, the chairman of the Equal Rights Association, says in the Mail on 12th May, 1890:—"I must repeat what I said in a letter, which you were kind enough to publish on 30th April, that all attempts to make party capital out of the separate school question are either ignorant or dishonest, and will be discountenanced by every fair minded man who knows a little of Canadian history. I desire therefore to say, I speak for myself, that the measures adopted in regard to French schools appear to be satisfactory, as does the legislation of last session respecting separate school supporters."

Electors, what do you think of it? Can you trust Meredith and the conservatives with such a record. Look at the record of Mowat's honest government for the past 18 years, against which no charges of corruption can be made. Look at his management of the finances and the surplus he has, and then look at Quebec's debt of \$25,000,000 and the Dominion debt of nearly \$250,000,000, and do not allow yourself to be influenced by false cries, but give the "grand old man" a rousing victory.

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