

teachers' qualifications and examinations, and organization of public schools, including collegiate institutes and normal and model schools.

The Public Schools Act (1890), provides :—

(6) "Religious exercises in the public schools shall be conducted according to the regulations of the Advisory Board. The time for such religious exercises shall be just before the closing hour in the afternoon. (A clause follows exempting any pupil from being compelled to attend such exercises.)

(7) Religious exercises are held in any district entirely on the option of the trustees.

(8) The public schools shall be entirely non-sectarian and no religious exercises shall be allowed therein except as above provided."

Under these clauses the Advisory Board chose a list of Scripture passages to be read, fixed a short form of prayer, and the Lord's Prayer. As a matter of fact, these religious exercises were carried out by the trustees in about one-half of the one thousand schools of Manitoba. These exercises were well received by the great majority of the people, but some of the Roman Catholics objected to them as being Protestant in character.

All the world knows the friction caused by the Acts of 1890. It led to an appeal, by the Roman Catholics, to the Privy Council on the ground that their rights and privileges guaranteed by the Manitoba Act of 1870 had been prejudicially affected. On this contention the Privy Council decided against them. Another case was submitted to the Privy Council on the ground that these Acts of 1890 violated the promises of the British North American Act and Manitoba Act: That separate schools once established in a province may not be abolished. In this case the Privy Council decided that the Roman Catholic minority had a grievance. How to remedy this became a subject for the politicians, and the Tupper government was defeated on this issue.

The accession to power of the Laurier government led to