

Act. Its powers are not exclusive or absolute, but strictly limited, and in some respects subordinate to the Dominion Parliament.

After the creation of the Province, the Provincial Legislature, by an Act passed in 1871, called the Manitoba School Act, established a system of schools under the control of a Board of Education, one-half of whom were to be Protestants, and the other half Catholics; the two sections to meet separately; the Protestants to appoint a Protestant Superintendent, the Catholics a Catholic Superintendent; each Board to *select its own text books, relating to morals and religion*. In the sections where the Protestants predominated the schools were to be regarded as Protestant schools, and where the Catholics predominated, Catholic schools. Thus, a double system of public schools was, at the very beginning, created in the Province.

Acts amending this education law, in some respects, were passed in subsequent years, but it is not necessary to refer to them. The Manitoba School Act of 1881 repealed all prior acts, but it re-created and re-established the double system of Protestant and Roman Catholic schools on the same general lines as the Act of 1871, only that it made the distinction between the Protestant and Roman Catholic schools more marked, by providing that each section of the Board of Education should *select all books* to be used in the schools under its control, and gave a right to the minority, when sufficiently numerous, to establish a separate school in any section where the majority already possessed a school.

By virtue of this legislation, Protestant and Roman Catholic schools were created and built up in the pro-