

to twelve years of age in the rural sections adopting them, and from six to thirteen years of age in the incorporated towns adopting them, there has never been any serious difficulty with respect to religious instruction. Although not referred to in the Course of Study, a regulation of the Council of Public Instruction assumes that "devotional exercises" may be conducted in any school so long as no parent or guardian objects thereto in writing. If the objection be made, the exercises may be so modified as to give no offence within regular school hours. But if no such modification can be made, the exercises may be held immediately before the opening of the secular work of the school, or after its close. The trustees, who may well be assumed to understand the local conditions of their section, have therefore, under the law, very large powers for regulating such exercises where the people wish them limited, first by the provision that no one shall be required to be present at devotional exercises disapproved of, and secondly by the condition that it shall not intrench injuriously on the regular and imperative work of the school.

This explains how the only two Roman Catholic colleges in the province, St. Francis Xavier (English) and Ste. Anne (French), and many of the convents are affiliated with the public school system. In fact, no corresponding institutions of any other of the religious denominations are thus affiliated, although the law leaves it as open to the one as to the other. When mutually agreeable, the trustees of school sections can rent the school rooms of such institutions, appoint the teachers nominated by them, if they hold provincial licenses, and otherwise control the school in strict accordance with the letter of the law. Such schools having regularly licensed teachers, the same school books, the same registers to be kept and the same returns to be made out and sworn to, the same Inspectors to visit and report, etc., and are paid the same public grants as any other public schools doing the same work. When it has not interfered with proper grading, trustees have been allowed to have separate schools for the boys and the