

At the close of the examination, the candidates' answers are forwarded to the Central Board; they are read and valued by the members, and diplomas granted to those who obtain the number of marks prescribed by the regulations.

This Central Board, and the Catholic Normal Schools, alone have power to grant diplomas valid for Catholic Schools.

DISSENTIENT SCHOOLS.

The laws on Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec provide ample protection for the minority, and appear to be the surest guarantee of the maintenance of harmony between citizens holding different religious views. The clauses concerning dissentient schools are a convincing proof of this fact. In the school law a wise principle is embodied by which persons who cannot agree while living together, may separate and live apart.

This principle is the basis of the following article of the law :

"If in any municipality, the regulations and arrangements made by the School Commissioners for the management of any school are not agreeable to any number whatever of the proprietors, occupants, tenants, or ratepayers, professing a religious faith different from that of the majority of the inhabitants of such municipality, they may signify such dissent in writing, to the chairman of the Commissioners."

They then organize themselves into a separate corporation and elect a Board of School Trustees.

Thus, if in a school municipality the Catholics are the majority, the Protestants, by simply giving notice of dissent, may organize into a separate corporation; on the other hand, if the Protestants be the majority, the Catholics may dissent in the same manner; therefore, whether the minority be composed of Catholics or of Protestants, they may, if they so desire, have separate schools.

The notice of dissent is made and signed in triplicate, and is addressed to whom it concerns before the first of May. The election of trustees is held during the month of July following.

If in any municipality the ratepayers belonging to the religious denomination of the dissentients become the majority, they can give written notice of their intention to organize themselves under School Commissioners. In this case, the former majority become the minority, and they may in turn give notice of dissent and elect school trustees.