

BILL

An Act respecting the Roman Catholic Separate Schools of the City of Ottawa.

Preamble.

WHEREAS pursuant to an Act respecting the Board of Trustees of the Roman Catholic Separate Schools of the City of Ottawa passed in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty, King George the Fifth, chaptered 45, the Minister of Education with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the 20th day of July, 1915, appointed a Commission consisting of Denis Murphy, now deceased, Thomas D'Arcy McGee and Arthur Charbonneau herein referred to as "the Commissioners" to conduct and manage the Roman Catholic Separate Schools of the City of Ottawa, which said Act has been declared to be ultra vires; and whereas the Board of Trustees of the said Separate Schools prior to the appointment of the said Commission, had neglected and failed to open, keep open, maintain and conduct the said schools according to law and to provide qualified teachers therefor, had threatened at various times to close the said schools and had neglected and refused to discharge and perform the duties imposed upon it by law to the loss and damage of the supporters of the said schools and to the serious prejudice of the children entitled to attend the same; and whereas by reason of the neglect and default of the Board as aforesaid it was necessary to provide special means for the education of the children entitled to attend the said schools until the Board should be willing to perform its lawful duties in respect to said schools, and the Commissioners were appointed for that purpose; and whereas the Commissioners entered into possession of the school premises and property on the 26th day of July, 1915, and thereafter maintained and conducted the said schools continuously until the said Act was declared to be ultra vires, during the whole of which time the said Board was unwilling to conduct the said schools according to law; and whereas the Commissioners in carrying on said schools and meeting obligations of the Board disbursed \$68,873.43, which at the date of their appointment stood to the credit of the Board in the Quebec Bank at Ottawa, the further sum of \$84,156.04 received out of Court pursuant to an order of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Ontario, dated the