

Catholic French High School Board. Things have certainly arrived at a pretty pass when such things can happen in Ontario!

The High School Board of Rockland belongs to the Church of Rome. The constant aim of the Board has been to engage a Roman Catholic principal. The first principal was a nominal Protestant, but attended the services of the Roman Catholic Church. The only other Protestant principal who has been employed by the Board was engaged because no properly qualified Roman Catholic was available, and he was discharged after a very short term of service for no good reason, and a Roman Catholic, the present principal, who speaks French as well as he does English, was appointed in his stead. Until recently Roman Catholic prayers have been used in the school. Roman Catholic Church holidays have been and still are observed by closing the High School.

The High School in Plantagenet is an institution of special interest because the Ross Commissioners in 1889 advised the Education Department to establish a model school in connection with it in order that French-born pupils might be trained to teach English efficiently. In view of the fact that French teachers are trained in this school, it enjoys a special reputation as a bi-lingual institution. The Rockland school yearns to be known as such, but it is shoddy, while the Plantagenet school is the genuine article. And yet, strange to relate, there has been of late a hot controversy raging in the columns of "Le Moniteur," the French-Canadian organ published in Hawkesbury. It seems that the French are not satisfied with the present principal of the Plantagenet High School, a bright young Irish Roman Catholic, a graduate of Queen's University. This gentleman does not elevate the French language to a sufficient pinnacle of greatness to please the eager and ambitious nationalists of Prescott County. The principal has his supporters and they have been writing to Le Moniteur affirming that plenty of attention is given to French. So the aims of the French people are thus openly aired