

THE
SEPARATE SCHOOL SYSTEM
IN
ONTARIO.

The following is a report of that part of Hon. Mr. Mowat's speeches, delivered to his constituents, partly at Embro, December 6th, and partly at Plattsville, December 9th, 1889, on the Separate School question, giving a history of the inauguration of the Separate School system and its present position. Mr. Mowat said:—

Our assailants in a new-born zeal for religion affect to be concerned for Protestantism if the public confidence in us continues. They affect to consider us as sold to the Church of Rome, and therefore unsafe custodians of the rights and interests of the Protestant population. This is about the last charge I should have expected to see made against myself or my colleagues, however great the straits of our opponents, or however desperate their political prospects. I have no doubt their leaders and newspaper writers have many a laugh amongst themselves at their party using "no-Popery" as their war cry against the present Ontario Government. But as a religious cry has always some effect, it seems in the present case to have carried away some intelligent and good men here and there who have no political purpose to serve, and no known leaning in favor of the party that is using the cry. The cry being resorted to, it has to be discussed. One of the grounds on which our assailants pretend to base their ridiculous and groundless charge is, the amendments which, with the concurrence of all parties, have from time to time been made in the Separate School law as it stood at the time of Confederation.