

the ground that they are exceptional, if not worse. First, it is said that under the Separate Schools Act as amended by the Liberal Government, every Roman Catholic is primarily a Separate school supporter where Separate schools exist. Formerly it is said he was a Public school supporter, and could only change his status by notice to the clerk of the municipality. Practically, however, the same result was obtainable under the old as under the new Act. A Catholic under the old Act could, by notice to the clerk of the municipality, (which he was not required to give annually), be ranked for all time to come as a Separate school supporter. Now, if entered on the assessment roll as a Separate school supporter—and this cannot be done by the assessor against his will—he may change his status by notice to the clerk, as in the former case. There is no restraint upon his liberty of action in either case, and he is not required to make up his mind in one week, as is alleged; he may give notice any time between the final revision of the assessment roll and the second Wednesday of January in each year. Again, it is said Catholics are allowed representation on the Board of High School Trustees, a privilege denied to other denominations. The same objection applies to the whole Separate school system. But why was this representation allowed? Catholics complained that they were very often ignored in the appointments made to the High school boards, and that as a consequence they were unable to excite that degree of interest in higher education among their Separate school supporters that was desirable. They felt, by their exclusion from these boards, that Protestants regarded the High school as something in regard to which they should not be consulted, notwithstanding that they paid for their support as others did. Now, I am not saying that this was a justifiable feeling, although in many instances there was substantial ground for it. They represented to the Government that they believed the confidence which would be felt by their people in High school management, by the proposed representation, would be helpful to the Separate school, and with this object in view their request was granted. Now, in proof of their sincerity, it has been found that in some instances, when they were already represented on High school boards by appointments previously made, they have not availed themselves of the privilege conferred upon them by the law. In other cases they made the Catholic appointee on the board their representative, leaving the local authorities to fill his place as was deemed best. It is also said that the inspectors of Separate schools are paid out of the Provincial treasury, while the inspectors of Public schools in cities and towns are paid exclusively from local taxation, and that in this respect the Catholics are specially favoured. Now, what are the facts in this case? Formerly the Separate schools were inspected by the High school inspectors, or by the Public school inspectors. It was found, however, impracticable to continue this, for several reasons: 1. The High school inspectors had plenty to do without being charged with this duty. 2. The two duties were incompatible on account of the great difference in the work of the two classes of schools. 3. It was but natural that the teachers of Separate schools would receive