

affection on the part of the laity towards the clergy. He should be deceiving himself if he took any other view, and so would the Protestant public if they took any other view. To impose the ballot on Separate School supporters from a Protestant standpoint, and before they wanted it, could not be proper on the part of a Protestant legislature in a free country. For Protestants to agitate for it before Roman Catholics are ready delays rather than hastens their disposition to adopt the ballot. Non-politicians might be of a different impression; politicians, he did not believe, could have any other view than this. A good deal was said about the corporate Roman Catholic vote, and it is affirmed that such is the influence of the Roman Catholic clergy that the so-called corporate vote in parliamentary elections is subject to their guidance. If so, it is subject to their influence notwithstanding the ballot, for we have the ballot in the elections to this House and to the House of Commons; and what our opponents now-a-days say as to the corporate vote, demonstrates that they do not believe what they profess to believe as to the power of the clergy needing the check of the ballot in regard to Separate Schools.

His own idea was, that the ballot would not make a particle of difference to the Roman Catholic clergy in school matters; and it was for the Roman Catholic laity themselves to say when the time had come for the adoption of the ballot system as regards their schools. It was to be remembered that it

TOOK EIGHTY YEARS AFTER

the people of this country had a representative Assembly before they were prepared to adopt the ballot for parliamentary elections. The ballot in municipal elections did not come for a couple of years longer. Then they gave the option of the ballot in Public School elections, and not one-third of the Public School Boards had availed themselves of the use of it.

MR. MEREDITH.—It does not apply to rural sections.

MR. MOWAT said it did not matter. A very large proportion of the schools which had the power of adopting the ballot did not avail themselves of it—that was the point. That fact showed that Protestant school supporters were not prepared for the general adoption of the ballot even for Public Schools. Time must be given for all these things. In some cases the ballot had been adopted for a Public School election, and its adoption had afterwards been regretted. His own opinion was that the ballot would ultimately be adopted by all schools, Public and Separate, but the time must be left, to some extent, to the option of those concerned.