Protestants. It is in this spirit, we have dealt with the Separate Schools Act, and it is on this account that we are blamed by some who have no appreciation of the duties which Parliament owes to every class of Her Majesty's subjects, irrespective of creed, race or colour. It is said again, that while Catholics have the right to determine what is good and requisite for Separate schools, they have no right to express any opinion respecting the Public school system of the country. But the Public school system, so far as they avail themselves of it, is as much theirs as it is anybody else's. As a matter of fact, it is used by them to a greater extent than the Separate school. Out of a Catholic school population of about 80,000, over 50,000 attend the Public school. Shall we make it impossible for them to avail themselves of privileges for which they are obliged by law to pay, by connecting these privileges with religious obligations to which they cannot conscientiously subscribe ? The duty of the State is to protect the liberty of the subject, not to hamper it ; to extend where practicable, not to curtail. Acting on this principle we have endeavoured to promote the efficiency of Separate schools, and we have done it for the same reason as we have legislated for Public schools, viz., to diffuse as widely as possible the benefits of a good English education. To begin with : Last session we amended and consolidated the Separate Schools Act. We had treated the Public Schools Act in a similar way the previous session. We are now framing regulations for Separate schools dealing with the same matters as are taken up in the regulations respecting Public schools.

(2) We have amended the law so that now where land is assessed against owner and tenant, the tenant shall be the person to say whether the taxes shall be applied for Separate school purposes.

The object of this amendment was to enable the man who paid the rent, and therefore, no matter how disguised, paid the taxes, to determine the purpose to which his school taxes should be applied, and this applies to Protestants and Catholics.

(3) Now a company may, by notice to the clerk of the municipality, require the proportion of stock or personal property of the Roman Catholics comprising such company to be assessed for Separate school purposes.

This is merely extending to personal property the same principle which always applied to real estate.

(4) Trustees of Separate schools may now use municipal machinery for the collection of their school rates, if they so desire, in the same way and with the similar powers as Public school trustees.

(5) A municipal council may enter into an agreement with the Separate school, where the majority of such council are not Separate school supporters, to pay over to the Separate School Board so much of the school taxes collected as may represent the assessment of Protestants and Catholics in the municipality proportionately.

These are some of the most important amendments relating to taxation and assessment, but there are others to which special objeection is taken on