

And whereas, it has been held in our Courts by Judges Casault and Caron (School Commissioners of Tewkesbury vs. Carrigan, Quebec Law Reports, vol. vi., and the same vs. McKee (a Protestant), No. 1428 c.c. Q. 1881), that the imparting of not only religious instruction, but even the peculiar tenets of the Church of the majority represented by said Priest, Curé or officiating Minister is obligatory, if required by such Church, in order to constitute such School a Common School, and that without such teaching no ratepayer can be compelled to pay taxes in support of the School.

And whereas, it was evidently the intention of the Legislature that the words "Officiating Minister" should apply to such cases where the majority were Protestants.

And whereas, the Legislature, in so legislating, were evidently under the impression that what is styled the "Protestant Faith" was, like the Roman Catholic Faith, homogeneous in its nature.

And whereas, in fact, no such faith as the "Protestant Faith" exists, but on the contrary those who are styled Protestants are composed of members of many different and independent creeds and denominations, and consequently that it would be impossible for any one officiating minister to represent them in the matter of religious instruction in the Common Schools, so that the aforesaid provision of the School Law becomes altogether inoperative and inapplicable in so far as those Schools which are under the control of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction are concerned, and in all cases where more than one officiating Minister resides in such municipality.

And whereas, in the opinion of this Committee, the only means of solving the difficulty would be to divest the Priest, Curé or officiating Minister of any control over the text-books to be used in giving the religious instruction required in the Common Schools exclusively under the jurisdiction of said Protestant Committee and vest the same exclusively in such Protestant Committee (a body composed of representatives of the leading Protestant denominations) with the power of making such rules and regulations with respect to the use of such text-books in any such School as they may think fit, reserving, however, to the ministers of the several Protestant denominations the right of supervision and inspection of such Schools which they now enjoy under the law.

Be it resolved, that the Executive be requested to take such steps as may be necessary in order to ensure such a revision of the School Law by a Committee of the Legislature now charged, or which may hereafter be charged with the same, as shall enact that the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction shall have the exclusive jurisdiction and control over the religious instruction and text-books to be given and used in the Schools under their exclusive control, with the power of making such rules and regulations with respect to the use of such text-books in any such School as they may think fit, reserving, however, to the ministers of the several Protestant denominations the right of super-