

NO DICTATION.

Our opponents speak also of our amendments as made on the demand of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. In like manner they think it useful to assume that whatever appointments of Roman Catholics we make to office are made at the like ecclesiastical dictation. While our Protestant appointments, it seems, are free, our Roman Catholic appointments are only made because dictated by outside influences. I assert the reverse of all this assumption of Roman Catholic dictation. The statements so made are utterly without foundation. In this I can speak, and I do speak, from personal knowledge. Those who make the charges can have no knowledge on the subject. At most they infer them—a few do so in perfect honesty; but more do so not in honesty. The Roman Catholic clergy have not that opinion of our weakness or subserviency which our assailants choose to assert. In fact, during my 17 years' Premiership, there has not been one instance of attempted dictation by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy or clergy; not one to myself as I know, and not one to my colleagues as I am sure. Indeed, as to Separate School legislation, to my recollection not one of the Roman Catholic bishops or clergy has ever written or spoken to me on the subject, or sent me any message or communication.

Further: I have every reason to believe that several of the amendments now assailed were made, not only without any demand or dictation (as our opponents falsely allege) by Bishops or clergy of the Church of Rome, but without even any knowledge on their part of the intention to make these amendments. Most of them, if not all, were made at the suggestion of Roman Catholic laymen. Whatever suggestions in educational matters were made by laity or clergy were made through the Minister of Education for the time being. He received the suggestions and considered them in pursuance of his official duty, and he brought before Council such as he approved of, and such others as he desired the Government as a whole to consider before his approval. In like manner other classes of the community have from time to time wanted legislation—merchants, mill-owners, dairymen, farmers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, surveyors, mechanics, railway employees, and other wage earners; Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Disciples, and many others. When the Government thought any proposals so made were reasonable, we gave effect to them. But we did not understand that any who sought for them were dictating to us, or that in taking a favorable view of their representations we were obey-