

of persons aided in these institutions is greater, or because Roman Catholics have been more liberal in contributing to the maintenance of their institutions than the supporters of other institutions have been.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

The *Review* writer further states that "in Ontario, with a Government and legislation permitting the school system to be yearly encroached upon it is about time that some one should speak out." The letters do not mention this yearly encroachment on our school system. There has been no encroachment. Amendments have, from time to time, been made in the Public School Law for its improvement. But amendment or improvement is not encroachment. If the writer's reference is to Separate Schools, then I have to state that, instead of there having been yearly encroachments upon the School law by Separate School legislation, the fact is there was no amendment whatever from the session of 1871-2, when the Reform Government came into power, until the session of 1879, and none after the session of 1879 [with the exception of a declaratory section in 1881] until the session of 1884. The amendments made were such as seemed to us all to be fair and reasonable; and such also as we all thought would be approved of by the Protestant community of all parties (now that Separate Schools have by the B. N. A. Act become by general consent a part of our educational system). Since the amendments of 1879 there have been two general elections without objection having been taken to these amendments from any quarter, so far as I remember; and on both occasions the Government was sustained in spite of the united efforts of the Dominion Government and the Local Opposition. So, in regard to the subsequent amendments, no objection to them was made in the House, none by any of the religious journals of the province, and none from any other quarter. The only changes which the Legislature has made in the Separate School law have thus been changes which were acquiesced in by all Protestants at the time, and were not objected to until now, when a No Popery cry is if possible to be worked up for political purposes.

Following in the same direction as the *Review* writer, the *Mail* has been a little more specific. That journal has said that in our legislation we have "conferred on Roman Catholics distinct and extraordinary advantages over the supporters of Public Schools as regards State aid and other matters." And this is another misstatement pure and simple. By express law, State aid to both Public and Separate Schools is according to the school attendance, and no Roman Catholic is exempt from school rates any more than a Protestant is.