

ing of the public school was examined for a local license by Sister Barnard, of the Convent School. This was the evidence on that point:—

Q. Do you know who it was examined her for the local license? A. I understand it was Sister Barnard, Superior of the Sisters, who was authorized to do so by Inspector Mersereau, etc.

It would seem more than passing strange if these examinations for local licenses were going on in the Convent by the Lady Superioress, and it was hardly to be wondered at, that the Protestants had entered a protest. It looks very much as though the Convent was running the Board of Education.

He would not take up further, the time of the House, in quoting from the evidence. From what he had shown it would certainly convince any reasonable man that—

1st. Conventual schools have been established at Bathurst and Bathurst Village in the interiors of the Roman Catholic Church, that rooms were secured in the Convent buildings for that purpose and that the ecclesiastical authorities were instrumental in bringing these religious teachers to Bathurst and Bathurst Village.

2nd. That there has been more than an ordinary interference with the public schools of Bathurst and Bathurst Village by the Roman Catholic priests, and that the same was a just matter of complaint on the part of the Protestants.

3rd. That the Trustees of the schools at these places have been derelict in their duty, and that the Board of Education had been repeatedly petitioned to that effect, and that the Board of Education was therefore guilty of neglect and open to censure.

4th. That it is beyond controversy that the Roman Catholic prayers and catechism were taught *within* school hours, as well as outside of them in many of the schools in Gloucester county.

5th. That the grading of the school has been such as to make it necessary for Protestant children to attend the convent, which is obnoxious to every true Protestant, and a contravention of the Schools Law, and a sufficient reason for all the agitation in Bathurst Village and town. He (Pitts) believed that if the Roman Catholics of the province desired to live on friendly terms, to enjoy the full benefits of the grand educational system of the province, it was to their advantage to assist in eliminating the invisible line which separated these two large sects in the carrying on of the Free School system. If we were ever to be a great country, a progressive nation, it was imperative that the people should have every educational facility and this drawing a line and saying our children should not mix with yours, or your children with ours, was not in the best interests of the country. Let all this bickering be cast aside; let all these special privileges be done away with, and let all join in working out the ideal system of educating the youth of the country; then could all be most truly happy, and these continual jarings would be at an end.

The Protestants, not only at Bathurst, but everywhere throughout the Province were disposed to do everything to have a satisfactory settlement of this question. He repudiated the idea that there was a desire in any quarter to keep the question agitated and the people in a ferment. There was an honest desire for peace, and a settlement of the difficulties, but it was all non-

sense to think that a report of a judge, or of any person or body of men could settle this question so long as these grievances existed.

As it was now, notwithstanding the assessment for schools was much higher than before the Sisters came, yet the public schools were so notoriously bad that the Protestants of Bathurst were obliged to keep up a private school at their own expense, that their children might receive a fair education. In the Village not only has the cost in maintaining the schools increased, but the public school had been steadily deteriorating and recently the male teacher had been dismissed and a female teacher engaged, who is said to be entirely incapable of managing the school. Then to keep up the Convent the efficiency of this school has been destroyed, and on the score of economy both the Town Grammar School and the Village High School were closed entirely for a season, yet the Convent schools went on.

He (Pitts) had not garbled or simply read portions of sentences in the evidence, as submitted at the Investigation, but it would be impossible in the short time at his disposal, to read longer extracts, all of which would further prove his contention. The House would judge whether these extracts would not stand out in refutation of the report of the judge, who had ignored the sworn evidence, at least not referred to it to any extent.

There were one or two things that it might as well be understood by the Roman Catholics, first as last, would never be conceded, and if they were prepared to insist on these, he would not be responsible, or able to say where the end would be. It was beyond question that the Protestants of this Province would never be satisfied as long as the public money went to maintain sectarian schools, and regardless of what part of the province these schools were situated, or as long as public schools were maintained in denominational buildings and directly under ecclesiastical control. Again they would never be satisfied as long as the Sisters of Charity were allowed to obtain licenses to teach in public schools, and thus draw public money from the treasury and not attend Normal School as the other teachers were obliged to do, or, further, while the Sisters were allowed to teach in the public schools in the peculiar garb of their order. This peculiar garb was obnoxious to Protestant feelings, and would never be tolerated where Protestant children had to attend the schools, as much so as the Orangeman's regalia appeared to be to the Roman Catholics. The session of the Legislature was getting far advanced, and the matter was now before the courts, and he did not feel like taking any further time of the House, but he could assure the members that regardless of whether they gave the Protestants of the country the justice they claimed, which they had refused before, or whether the Commissioner reported adversely, or the Courts on some technical point threw out their case, there was one court, and that was the High Court of Public Opinion, the People at the Ballot Box, that would in time satisfactorily regulate and give the honest justice demanded. All he and the petitioners wanted was the Public Schools Law as enacted in 1875, shorn of its obnoxious secret regulations, and special concessions made to the Roman Catholic Religious teaching orders.