

than be instruments of collecting moneys for the support of papal schools; and Roman Catholics would loudly exclaim against being tax-assessors and tax-collectors for the support of Protestant schools. The proposition of a separate column on the tax roll, for the support of separate schools, would give an immense advantage to all opponents of separate schools; but the 4th section in the accompanying draft of bill, as proposed in the margin (b) will, I think, give all that can be reasonably asked by any person in support of denominational schools, and will extinguish all agitation on the subject, yet require such conditions, returns and inspection in connexion with separate schools as will prevent abuses upon the school grant. It may be objected that should persons at one time sending children to a separate school, afterwards wish to send them to a common school, they should be required to pay the taxes at least for the erection of the school-house from which they had been exempted; but this would oppose an obstacle to their coming back to the public school; and I would wish to leave the door as wide open as possible for that purpose.

I may add that the subject of this fourth section has deeply exercised my mind. The part of the section as proposed in the margin (b) occurred to me after that in the page (a) was transcribed; and I think it is the nearest approach to the solution of the difficulties connected with separate schools, if they are allowed to exist, that has yet been proposed.

(Signed,)

E. RYERSON.

The Honorable FRANCIS HINCKS, M. P. P.,
Inspector General, Quebec.

Original draft of the 4th section of the Supplementary School Act of 1853.

(a) Section as in Text.

IV. And be it enacted, That in all cities, towns, incorporated villages and school sections in which separate schools exist, according to the provisions of the 19th section of the said 13th and 14th Vic., chap. 48, all parents or guardians of the religious persuasion of such separate school, and sending children to it, shall be exempted from the payment of all school rates for the support of the common public schools of such city, town, incorporated village or school section, beyond the amount of rate which shall be required to secure the payment

(b) Marginal Section.

IV. And be it enacted, That in all cities, towns, incorporated villages and school sections, in which separate schools do or shall exist, according to the provisions of the 19th section of the said act, 13th and 14th Vic., chap. 48, parents or guardians of the religious persuasion of each such separate school sending children to it, shall be exempted from the payment of all school rates for the support of the common public schools of each such city, town, incorporated village or school section; and each such separate school shall share in the legislative common school grant apportioned to each such city, town, incorporated village or township, (but shall not share in any school money raised by local municipal assessment,) according to the average attendance of pupils attending each such separate school (the mean attendance of pupils for summer and winter being taken), as compared with the