

that question. What we want now is the thorough education of all classes, Catholic as well as Protestant, and if the removal of this grievance will promote this end, as I believe it will, then we have in the results obtained the fullest justification of the wisdom of our course. (Applause.)

There are several other statements made by our opponents which I will not wait to argue. They are so clearly inaccurate, I will simply contradict them categorically. (1) It is not true, as sometimes alleged, that a Roman Catholic must, if he wishes to withdraw from a Separate School, notify the Clerk annually. One notice of withdrawal is sufficient, just as one notice to become a Separate School supporter is sufficient. It is not true that the law has been changed as to the time within which notice must be given. The second Wednesday in January and 1st of March are the dates fixed by the Act of 1863. It is not true the Assessor can enter any ratepayer as a Separate School supporter against his will. No man's will has been tampered with.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

as I trust toward every other interest with which we have to deal, is one of generous, yet judicial, fairness. We hope neither to punish nor favor any class of Her Majesty's subjects because of their religious opinions. We are the guardians of minorities just as well as of majorities, and what justice requires in either case we shall do, fully believing that the people of Ontario will vindicate our course. (Loud applause.)

Perhaps before dismissing this part of my subject it would be worth while inquiring, what is the secret of all this agitation against the Mowat Government on the Separate School question? Has it been shown that those for whom the Separate Schools are intended are suffering any cruel wrong at our hands? When you champion any cause you usually do so because some private right has been encroached upon. Have the privileges of any Roman Catholic been grievously assailed? True, it may have happened that here and there one or two Catholics have been wrongly assessed, or perhaps in one or two instances the rates of a Protestant have gone to a Separate School. But this is not the fault of the law. No human foresight can prevent officers from occasionally blundering. It would be unreasonable to suppose that where we have at least 500,000 ratepayers, over 700 clerks, and nearly 800 assessors, one or more of them would not make an occasional blunder. And yet, so far as I can learn from the press, public attention has been called to very few mistakes of this kind. Surely there is no reason for the outcry on this account. Or is it