say, on the authority of one of my colleagues, that it was not even suggested by any bishop or priest, or, so far as known, thought of beforehand by any. My colleague informs me that the suggestion came from himself to the Minister of Education, and was made in consequence of the grievance which the amendment was designed to remedy having come to his own knowledge. The grievance was this:—After a year or two's experience of the working of the Act of 1877, it was found that in some localities assessors who were specially hostile to Roman Catholics and to Separate Schools had caused unnecessary and exceptional trouble to ratepayers who supported such schools, by requiring them to prove that they were Roman Catholics and supporters of the Separate Schools, and in other ways. When this was brought to the attention of the then Minister of Education, he considered it a reasonable ground of complaint, and one which in the spirit of the B. N. A. Act should be removed. You will observe that in carrying out the Assessor's duty as to Separate Schools under the Act of 1877, he had been left to find out the facts as well as he could, and by any means with which he chose to be satisfied, as in the case of all other matters which he was required to set down. In practice it was found that, where there was a Separate School, Roman Catholics, with extremely rare exceptions, were, or desired to be, supporters of the Separate School. In most municipalities (so far as I know) there was absolutely no exception to this, and in others the exceptions, if any, were probably not more than as one to a thousand. Most assessors, therefore, in the exercise of their discretion under the Act of 1877, and as a matter of convenience, had been in the habit of accepting the statement of a ratepayer, or of some one on his behalf, that he was a Roman Catholic, as sufficient *prima facie* evidence that he was to be set down as a supporter of the Separate School, leaving any error to be corrected on the ratepayer receiving the notice of the assessment or by the Court of Revision afterwards. The assessor did not usually go to the clerk's office to see about the notices which the clerk or his predecessors had received, as he did not go to the Registry Office to see the entries there before setting a man down as the owner of any property assessed.

The Minister of Education thought that what had thus been the reasonable practice of most assessors might be enjoined by law upon all, subject, like other assessments, to correction by the Court of Revision; and he therefore advised this amendment, which was adopted by the Legislature, and after a lapse of six years or more was for political purposes assailed for the first time by our political opponents:—