

That teachers had been rejected in Gloucester Co. because they were Protestants and would not teach the Roman Catholic catechism in the schools.

That illegal arrangements had been sanctioned by the Board of Education which enabled the children of one district to be taught in another district so as to receive religious instruction during school hours.

That in certain schools Roman Catholic catechism had been taught within school hours; Roman Catholic prayers had been used; Protestant children had been forced to kneel and cross themselves; a Protestant pupil had been expelled for refusing to kneel.

That generally the school law had been violated and disregarded in said school districts.

The hearing occupied sixteen days of arduous labor on the part of judge and counsel, some sixty witnesses being examined and an immense mass of evidence adduced filling some seven volumes and containing in the whole over twelve hundred pages of closely type-written matter, and as a result, in our opinion, the various charges were amply proved.

The argument took place at Fredericton and lasted four days, being taken part in by Hon. Mr. White for the Board of Education, R. A. Lawlor, Esq., for trustees and Hon. Mr. Skinner and myself for complainant. The commissioner took time to consider and stated that he would report to the Board of Education. Since that time Judge Fraser has been appointed Governor of the Province and it is not yet known to counsel whether he has or has not reported upon the matter, though I am of opinion that the Board has received some intimation of what his report is likely to be as they have since the argument made two very important changes in the regulations along the lines for which we contended, namely: The prohibition of the use of any but the Lo. 's prayer in the schools and the fixing of the school hours and prohibition of any use of religious catechism between those hours, which, if no other gain were made by this enquiry, must be regarded as a distinct victory for us.

After the close of the enquiry, counsel, upon consultation, decided to bring the matter before the courts as well, and the case of ex-parte Johnson attacking the assessment in school district No. 2 was taken up on certiorari and now stands with leave to re-enter next term.