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ages aforesaid under his care shall attend some school, or be otherwise educated, as thus of right declared, shall be subject to the penalties hereinafter provided by this Act;

(a) Nothing herein shall be held to require any Roman Catholic to attend a Public School, or require a Protestant to attend a Roman Catholic School.

### CENSUS OF CHILDREN SHALL BE TAKEN.

157. It shall be the duty of the trustees of every Public School:

(1) To ascertain before the thirty-first day of December in every year, through the assessor, collector, or some other person to be appointed for that purpose, and paid by them, the names, ages, and residences of all the children of school age in their school section, division, or municipality, as the case may be—distinguishing those children between the ages of seven and twelve years inclusive—who have not attended any school.

### NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS—CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLECT.

158. It shall further be the duty of the trustees of every Public School:—

(1) In case, after having been so notified, the parents or guardians of such children continue to neglect or violate the provisions of the said one hundred and fifty-sixth section of this Act;

(2) It shall be the further duty of the trustees either to impose a rate-bill on such parents or guardians not exceeding one dollar per month for each of their children not attending school; or,

(3) To make complaint of such neglect or violation to a magistrate having jurisdiction in such cases, provided by the one hundred and fifty-ninth section of this Act, and to deliver to said magistrate a statement of the names and residences of the parents or guardians of such children.

### DUTY OF POLICE AND OTHER MAGISTRATES IN THE MATTER.

159. It shall be competent for the police magistrate of any city or town, and for any magistrate in any village, township or town where there is no police magistrate, to investigate and decide upon any complaint made by the trustees, or any person authorised by them, against any parent or guardian for the

### COMPULSORY EDUCATION—CENSUS RETURNS.

It was a great and notable step in advance which the Legislature took in 1871, in embodying in the School Act of that year those two most important principles to which we have referred, viz.:—"Free Schools" and "Compulsory Education"—or in other words the guarantee of an open door to every school-house in the land, so that the poorest child might enter and claim such an education as would fit him to fill with respectability and credit any ordinary position to which he might be called, and also the inalienable right secured by statute to every child in the Province, that suitable instruction shall be provided for him at the hands of his parents or guardians for at least four months of the year.

In order to secure to the parties concerned, every facility for availing themselves of these beneficent provisions of the law, the School Act of 1874 contains some important supplementary provisions, which not only enable trustees (but require them) to give practical effect to the compulsory provisions of the Act of 1871. The whole of the provisions of the law on this subject, as thus supplemented and consolidated, are as follows:—

### RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

156. Every child from the age of seven to twelve years inclusive, shall have the right to attend some school, or be otherwise educated, for four months in every year; and any parent or guardian who does not provide that every child between the