

provisions of the
 1856, shall apply
 as to trustees and
 that the trustees of
 all have the same
 impositions upon and
 shall the support of
 have to impose,
 persons having pro-
 posing towards the
 and fifthly, that the
 on the first day of
 and shall extend to
 abolished under the
 Provided sixthly,
 of such separate
 describing towards
 on of any trustee
 incorporated village or
 the school shall be
 school section shall,
 st day of Decem-
 a correct return
 schools under their
 ing; nor shall any
 the school fund for
 shall neglect to
 nance of pupils in
 herein contained
 y-first section of

Inspector General

(4th section of the

August, 1852.

the 19th section of
 most simple, and

perhaps the most satisfactory mode of silencing clamor on the part of parties demanding these schools, (if they are permitted to continue at all,) is that which is proposed in the part of the section contained in the margin (b)—namely, to relieve the parents and guardians sending children to them, from paying any school tax whatever, and then allowing them to share with the other schools according to average attendance in the same municipality in the legislative school grant alone. In case such a provision were adopted: 1. There would be no provision in the school law requiring a public municipal tax for denominational schools, and all opposition and clamor against it on that ground would cease. 2. There could be no complaint from any quarter that the supporters of a separate school paid more or less in school taxes than they received from the school fund. 3. All the inhabitants of a municipality except those who might choose to send children to the separate school, could proceed with their school interests as if no other class of persons were in existence. 4. The teachers of separate schools might be relieved from appearing before the County Board of Public Instruction for examination, and thus the last vestige of possible agitation between the supporters of separate schools and the municipal authorities, in relation to the subject at all, would be removed. If, on the other hand, the clause, as expressed in the text (a) is preferred, then all teachers of separate schools should be required to appear before the County Board of Public Instruction for examination, the same as other teachers of common schools; for I hold it as a sacred principle of municipal right, that no municipality should be required to assess and collect money for the support of teachers whose qualifications to teach are not attested by a board appointed by such municipality. Before any such board there is no examination as to religious doctrines or knowledge. The certificate of the priest, clergyman, or minister, of the religious persuasion to which each candidate professes to adhere, is taken by each county board as the guarantee for the religious qualifications of such candidate.

It will be observed, that in this (4th) section, I do not propose to specify the manner in which persons exempted from school taxes shall be returned or ascertained; for if any one mode be specified, it will be abused by scores of persons merely with a view of avoiding the payment of any school tax. I therefore propose to leave it a matter of instruction as to the mode of carrying this as well as every other provision of the law into effect, so that that kind of inspection can be employed that will prevent imposition or abuse.

Then the section does not, any more than the 19th section of the existing law, give the persons who petition for, and send children to the separate school, control over all the Roman Catholics or Protestants of the municipality; but only over those of the persuasion of the separate school who choose to support it.

But I find that the very mention of a separate column on the tax roll, for a separate school, excites a hostility and feeling that you can hardly conceive. I find very few others feeling as indulgent as I do in such matters. But I am apprehensive that some municipalities would refuse to levy any school assessment whatever under such circumstances; and probably boards of school trustees would feel still more strongly, many of their members would sooner go to prison