

treating him as a supporter of a Separate School. The clerk's work was probably never performed without mistakes. He might by mistake, and sometimes did by mistake, exempt Protestants as if they were Roman Catholics and supporters of Separate Schools. He might in the same way exempt Roman Catholics who wished their school tax to go to the Public School, and had given no notice to the contrary, nor authorized any to be given. He might leave other Roman Catholics to be taxed for Public Schools who had given the necessary notices, and whose notices had been lost, forgotten or overlooked. In all cases the first the ratepayer would know of the wrong might be, and in most cases would be, when the collector came for his taxes. By that time an error through improperly exempting a ratepayer from the Public School tax was practically irremediable; while an error of the opposite kind, namely, in not exempting a Roman Catholic ratepayer who had given the notice, was remediable without difficulty if the ratepayer had received and preserved the clerk's certificate given when the clerk received the notice; though such certificates were not always obtained, and when obtained were seldom preserved by ordinary ratepayers.

It was plainly in the general interest that no man should get exemption unless he was really a Roman Catholic, nor unless being a Roman Catholic he really authorized the notice to be given by the so-called agent; and it was in the general interest that there should be an appeal to prevent improper exemptions. It was also fair to every ratepayer that he should receive notice before it was too late, as to whether by the official roll his school tax was to go to the Separate School or to the Public School; it was fair that the other ratepayers of the municipality should have the same right of objection in regard to this exemption as they have in regard to all other exemptions and assessments; and it was fair that as simple machinery should be provided for appeals at the instance of the ratepayer who has to pay, and of the other ratepayers interested, as in other cases. All these objects were accomplished by our amendments; and it is plain, assert the contrary who may, that the amendments of 1877 were valuable amendments in the general interest.

AMENDMENT OF 1879.

I now come to the amendment of 1879, and of this I am not only able to say positively, as in the case of every other amendment, that it was not dictated by Romish ecclesiastics, but I can