

years, the sum of £40, in our Municipality. The law does not permit us to levy more than 15 per cent. more than this sum. The 15 per cent. does not meet the expenses of collection, and, as a great number of absent proprietors do not pay us, we are left with less than £80 to meet the expenses incurred by keeping up six or seven schools. It is then necessary to establish a higher monthly rate than would be done if all the money due was obtained in proper time. This occasions other inconveniences which I shall notice hereafter. When it is necessary to levy a sum of money for building Schools there is no other way of supplying the deficiency occasioned by absentees (and from whom the amount cannot be obtained in advance) but to impose a new assessment, and this can only be effected to the great displeasure of those who have already paid. I said that the opposition of certain rate-payers prevented the law from operating with efficacy. These opponents are composed of two different classes, viz: certain rich proprietors, and the poor. The first oppose the law because they are assessed for School houses and for the payment of the salary of the teachers, whose services they do not sometimes avail themselves of, and consider themselves badly treated. This class of opponents is composed of a very small number, of a few individuals (perhaps of one alone.) They rely for support upon the poor class and some discontents of the middle classes; as the poor oppose the law because the obligation they are under of paying for each of their children between 7 and 14 years of age, is an onerous charge to them; I speak here of the poor who cannot be classed among the indigent, because they are proprietors. As I have already above observed, a great number of the owners of real estate do not pay, it is necessary to make up the deficiency by raising the monthly allowance, thus giving rise to discontent. Certain families are so remote from the School houses that it is impossible for them to send their children, and nevertheless it is not in the power of the commissioners to exempt them from the payment of the monthly rates; how can these persons be obliged to pay a higher rate than would be necessary if all paid punctually to supply the deficiency occasioned by absent proprietors; this is a just subject of complaint.

"In conclusion, I will say that the school system works at present in our municipality, but not without causing much trouble and embarrassment to the commissioners. If our School Commission continues to be composed of commissioners, the majority of whom sincerely desire the working of the law, the system will continue to work well, but it is to be apprehended that the opposition will succeed in introducing into the commission a majority of members unfavorable to the cause of education. The opposition was extremely active at the last election."

Rev. Mr. *Archambault*, (St. Thimothé.) I do not think so.

Rev. Mr. *Demers*, (St. Denis.) I do not think that the School system works in such a manner as to give to the youth an education sufficient for the industrial interests of the country; all these very young female teachers do not inspire sufficient respect to the parents or to the children.

Rev. Mr. *Grenier*, (St. Henri.) In some schools.

Rev. Mr. *Pouliot*, (St. Irenée.) The system works sufficiently well.

Rev. Mr. *Crevier*, (St. Marie de Monnoir.) It might and ought to be better.

Rev. Mr. *Pelletier*, (Isle aux Coudres.) I must certainly confess that the school system does not work here, and generally in other places, so as to afford sufficient instruction. Experience shews me children leaving the schools, and still incapable of appreciating education, returning to their parents, with a little knowledge of reading, and that is about all.

Rev. Mr. *Roy*, (Trois Pistoles.) Sufficiently well. Apathy.

Rev. Mr. *Duguay*, (St. Flavie.) No school-houses.

Rev. Mr. *Beaumont*, (Beaumont.) Will not answer, to avoid accusation.