

Holiness was conciliatory in tone, but condemned the settlement as unsatisfactory from the Roman Catholic standpoint.

Provisions of the law of 1890.—By the law of 1890 the general control of schools was vested in a department of education, which is to consist of the executive council, or a committee thereof, appointed by the lieutenant-governor in council, and also an advisory board composed of seven members, four of whom are to be appointed by the department of education, two by the teachers of the province, and one by the university council. Among the duties of the advisory board is the power "to examine and authorize text-books and books of reference for the use of the pupils and school libraries; to determine the qualifications of teachers and inspectors for high and public schools; to appoint examiners for the purpose of preparing examination papers: to prescribe the form of religious exercises to be used in schools."

The law provides "for the formation, alteration, and union of school districts in rural municipalities, and in cities, towns, and villages;" for the election of trustees in each district; for the maintenance and control of the schools.

All public schools shall be free schools, and every person in rural municipalities between the age of 5 and 16 years, and in cities, towns, and villages between the age of 6 and 16, shall have the right to attend some school.

SEC. 6. Religious exercises in public schools shall be conducted according to the regulations of the advisory board. The time for such religious exercises shall be just before the closing hour in the afternoon. In case the parent or guardian of any pupil notifies the teacher that he does not wish such pupil to attend such religious exercises, then such pupil shall be dismissed before such religious exercises take place.

SEC. 7. Religious exercises shall be held in a public school entirely at the option of the school trustees for the district, and upon receiving written authority from the trustees it shall be the duty of the teacher to hold such religious exercises.

SEC. 8. The public schools shall be entirely nonsectarian, and no religious exercises shall be allowed therein except as above provided.

The schools are to be supported by public grant and district assessments, but schools—

not conducted according to all the provisions of this or any act in force for the time being, or the regulations of the department of education, or the advisory board, shall not be deemed a public school within the meaning of the law, and shall not participate in the legislative grant.

THE SYSTEM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In accordance with the school law of 1891, British Columbia maintains a system of free secular schools which are under the charge of a superintendent appointed by the lieutenant-governor in council. The superintendent is assisted by the council of public instruction. The local unit of school administration is the district. School trustees, elected by vote of persons who pay a property tax, are empowered to provide sufficient accommodation for all children of the district between 6 and 16 years of age, inclusive. The trustees must visit the schools