

QUEBEC SCHOOL LAW.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PROTESTANT COMMITTEE.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLAUSES.

1. *That there should be a considerable increase in the grant for Elementary Education.*

The Committee, on the 28th December, 1895, declared that an increase in the grant for Elementary Education was both desirable and imperative.

It was deemed imperative on account of the pressing needs of the Elementary Schools. The statements in the public press and the reports of the School Inspectors point out that the standard of the Quebec Elementary Schools is behind that of the other Provinces of the Dominion. The population of the Province has increased since Confederation, but the grant for Elementary education has diminished. In 1868 the common school grant was \$174,000. In 1895 it was \$160,000. By the census of 1871 the population numbered 1,191,516. In 1891 it was 1,488,535. This is not progress but retrogression.

2. *That the method of distributing the grant should be changed.*

The Committee are convinced that the system under which the common school grant is now distributed, fails to meet the exigencies of the case. They urge, therefore, that it be replaced by a method similar to that adopted for the distribution of the grant and funds for superior education, which method has worked successfully, and has enabled the Committee greatly to increase the efficiency of the Academies and Model Schools. By the course adopted, the needs and the merits of each school are tested and made known through a proper system of inspection, and the grants made under this system tend to stimulate the governing body, whether commissioners or trustees. The teachers are also found to take much more interest in their work by the publication of the comparative standing of the schools.

3. *Prize-book money.*

The amount of the grant for prize books (so far as the Protestant schools are concerned) is so small that only the very cheapest books are available, with the natural conse-