

1st. To the violation in 1903, by the French for financial reasons of the compact of 1886, by which the English and the French schools in Ottawa were, by a by-law of the Separate School Board, almost independent of each other, both as regard finances and control.

2nd. To the failure ever since of all agreements between the English and French Catholics as regards abstaining from voting in the election of a trustee of the other's language.

3rd. To the Bilingual imbroglio.

4th. To the financial crisis, which joined to the above reasons, is causing every year an increased number of English-speaking Catholics to become Public School supporters.

For ten years the English speaking trustees have tried every means in their power to arrive at some working solution of the difficulty. During the past year they have had the honor of having discussed the question more than once with the Archbishop of Ottawa. Finally, November 5th, 1913, when the \$350,000 debenture by-law threatened to bring affairs to an immediate crisis, the English-speaking Committee of the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Trustees called a meeting in St. Patrick's Lyceum, at which were present the five English speaking parish priests and the seven English trustees who formed the English Committee. Two of the English Trustees, Trustee Freeland, who failed to obtain re-election in January 1914, and Trustee Armstrong, who represents an overwhelmingly French ward, (two trustees who did not represent in any way the views of the English speaking Catholics of the city, and who had previously left the English Committee) were not invited to the meeting. At this meeting it was unanimously decided:—

1st. That Separation of the Bilingual and Separate Schools proper of Ottawa, under two independent Boards with independent finances was the only real remedy.

2nd. That Messrs. Mackell and Lanigan should acquaint the Archbishop of Ottawa with the desire of the meeting and ask him to use his influence with the Government to obtain the necessary legislation.

3rd. That Messrs. Mackell and Lanigan should go to Toronto to acquaint the Government with the desire and need of separation.

4th. That failing everything else the matter should be placed before the Apostolic Delegate.

In accordance with the wishes of the meeting Messrs. Mackell and Lanigan saw the Archbishop of Ottawa, and His Grace, far from disapproving of the separation asked for, gave them reason to hope, that he would do what he could to obtain it.* They likewise went to Toronto and interviewed the Minister of Education, who gave a non-committal answer.

As it was feared that the third reading of the \$350,000 debenture by-law, would be passed at the February meeting of the Ottawa Separate School Board, the English Committee of the Ottawa Separate School Trustees, called a meeting on February 10th, of a number of their electors to discuss the situation. At the unanimous request of that meeting notice of a resolution asking the Ontario Government to legislate for separation of the Separate and Bilingual Schools was given at the February meeting of the Ottawa Separate School Board. On March 2nd, the English Committee called a second meeting of their electors, to which they invited, the English speaking city priests, and about one hundred and fifty of the leading Separate School Supporters of Ottawa. At that meeting the resolution for separation was unanimously approved, and the English Committee instructed to carry on the struggle till the necessary legislation be obtained.

We are aware that, as a rule, no change in the Separate School Act is made unless the Archbishops and Bishops of Ontario, or the majority of them, agree to the proposed change. Hence, we submit to Your Graces a copy of the Resolution for Separation, and its Motives. The account is from the *Ottawa Citizen* of March 4, 1914.

We are convinced that a separation substantially at least along the lines of the aforesaid resolution is an absolute necessity in Ottawa, if Separate Schools are to be maintained. We believe it to be required in many other places as well. We think that if applied to the whole Province it would be beneficial to Catholic education. However, we represent only Ottawa, and we would be satisfied if the proposed separation were obtained for Ottawa only.

*After the receipt of the above letter Mgr. Gauthier stated to Messrs. Mackell and Lanigan, that he wished to make it clear that he was perfectly neutral on this question of separation.