

substituted was, that the duties of High School Inspectors had become so large that they could not perform the additional duty of inspecting the Separate Schools. All their time was needed for High School purposes.

MR. MEREDITH.—Why were not the Public School Inspectors asked to perform the work?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—I was coming to that next. The hon. member is in a tremendous hurry. (Laughter). Dr. Ryerson whose great experience in all matters relating to education constituted him one of the highest authorities on everything connected therewith, thought that to appoint Public School Inspectors for the work was not the best way of dealing with the difficulty, and therefore he had assigned it to the High School Inspectors; and when they became unable to do it,

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two other Provincial Inspectors for this duty. The men selected were loyal men, of energy, and of experience, well qualified in every way for the work, and interested in doing it in the best possible way. Everyone must feel that competent men of their own religion would have far greater influence in the Roman Catholic Schools than Protestant Inspectors would have, and if equally competent would be able in a larger degree to increase the efficiency of the schools. The same observations applied of course to Protestant Schools, or schools where the children were all or chiefly Protestants. He did not know any such case in which a Roman Catholic had been appointed Inspector of the Schools. The parents and guardians of Protestant children have felt that a Protestant Inspector would be more useful than a Roman Catholic. The Government wanted the Separate Schools to be as efficient as possible, and thought that the object would be accomplished more effectually by appointing Roman Catholic Inspectors for these schools than by appointing Protestants. (Hear, hear).

One hon. member complained, and perhaps more than one complained, that the salaries of Separate School Inspectors were paid out of the public treasury. But it must be remembered that throughout the whole Province, from east to west, there were only two Inspectors for Separate Schools; if they were not men of exceptional energy and ability they could not do the work. Now if a calculation is made as to how much Roman Catholics contribute to the salaries of Public School Inspectors, they would probably find that the amount contributed by the