

C H A P . 16

An Act to amend the law concerning education, with respect to persons professing the Jewish religion

[Assented to 25th April, 1903.]

WHEREAS persons professing the Jewish religion claim Preamble.
the right to have their children received and educated at the schools under the control of the school corporations established by law ;

Whereas the said persons have hitherto sent their children to Protestant schools almost exclusively ;

Whereas the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of the city of Montreal, which is the municipality chiefly interested, refuse to acknowledge any obligation to receive, in the schools under their control, children of the Jewish faith, whose parents are not proprietors of immoveable property subject to taxation for the benefit of the said schools, and the validity of the said pretention has been judicially established ;

Whereas the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of the city of Montreal have, by resolution, expressed their consent that the above-mentioned difference be settled in the manner set forth in the following provisions ; and

Whereas it is expedient to prevent similar differences from arising in other localities in the province ;

Therefore, His Majesty, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts as follows :

1. Any provision to the contrary notwithstanding, in all the municipalities of the province, whether governed, as regards schools, by the Education Act or by special laws, or by the Education Act and by special laws, persons professing the Jewish religion shall, for school purposes, be treated in the same manner as Protestants, and, for the said purposes, shall be subject to the same obligations and shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as the latter. Jews to be treated as Protestants for purposes of education.

2. In every municipality in the province, persons professing the Jewish religion shall pay the school taxes to or for the benefit of the school corporation in such municipality which is under the control of the Protestant committee of the council of Public Instruction, and if there is no such corporation, then to the sole school corporation existing therein. Payment of taxes for schools by Jews.

Upon what statement property of Jews to be entered for purposes of taxation for schools, &c.

3. In every municipality in which, for the purpose of imposing and collecting the school tax, the immoveable property, belonging to persons professing the Jewish religion, is entered upon a statement comprising the immoveable property of persons who do not profess either the Roman Catholic or Protestant faith, the immoveable property, belonging to persons professing the Jewish religion, shall be omitted from such statement, and be entered on the statement comprising the immoveable property of persons who are of the Protestant faith.

Provisions granting right of option, repealed.

Every provision in any act, whether general or special, conferring upon persons of the Jewish religion the right to have their immoveable property entered upon any other statement than that on which is entered the immoveable property of Protestants, is repealed.

Jews to be counted among Protestants in division of moneys from school taxes.

4. Whenever, under the law applicable to any municipality, the moneys arising from school taxes are divided between the Roman Catholic school corporation and the Protestant school corporation, in the relative proportion of the Roman Catholic and Protestant population, persons professing the Jewish religion are counted among the Protestants.

Jews to be counted among Protestants in division of Legislative grant for schools.

5. In every municipality in which the grant annually voted by the Legislature for public schools is to be divided by the Superintendent of Public Instruction between the Roman Catholic school corporation and the Protestant school corporation, in the relative proportion of the Roman Catholic and Protestant population of the municipality according to the preceding census, that officer shall include, among the Protestants, the persons who, according to the then last census, professed the Jewish religion.

Right of Jewish children to be admitted to Protestants schools, &c.

6. After the coming into force of this act, the children of persons professing the Jewish religion shall have the same right to be educated in the public schools of the province as Protestant children, and shall be treated in the same manner as Protestants for all school purposes.

Children of Jews not to be compelled to read, &c., certain books.

No pupil of the Jewish religion can, however, be compelled to read or study any religious or devotional books or to take part in any religious exercises or devotions, to which the father or in his default the mother or tutor or person having the care or maintenance of such pupil shall object.

Coming into force.

7. This act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.