

ROMAN CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS, JEWS AND PAGANS, 1881 AND 1891.

YEAR.	NUMBER.				PROPORTIONS PER CENT.			
	Roman Catholics.	Protestants.	Jews.	Pagans.	Roman Catholics.	Protestants.	Jews.	Pagans.
1881	1,791,982	2,439,188	2,393	91,247	41.43	56.41	.05	2.11
1891	1,990,465	2,742,940	6,414	60,692	41.46	57.13	.13	1.26

Returns not having yet been received from all parts of the unorganized portions of the North-West Territories, the estimated population, amounting to 32,168, has been left out of the above calculation for 1891. If these had been included the probable effect would have been to bring the proportion of pagans nearer to that of 1881.

EDUCATION.

Educational control vested in Provincial Governments.

580. Under the British North America Act, 1867, the right to legislate on matters respecting education was placed in the hands of the Government of the several provinces, the rights and privileges of denominational and separate schools, then existing, being specially protected.

Difference in the several Provincial systems.

581. As a consequence of the above, there is a considerable difference in many details in the public school systems in force in the various provinces, though they are all based on the principle of free education, the funds being supplied by local taxation and Government grants. Ontario lays claim to having the most perfect system; but be that as it may, the arrangements in each province are admirable, and it is doubtful if any country, other than Canada, can boast of the same extended educational facilities.

Leading features of the several systems.

582. In Ontario the school system is under the control of the Minister of Education, who is a member of the Provincial Government for the time being. In the other provinces there are superintendents and boards of education, who report to the respective Provincial Secretaries. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, the schools are purely undenominational. In British Columbia, "the highest morality is to be inculcated, but no "religious creed or dogma taught." In the other three provinces religious exercises are permitted, but no children can be compelled to be present against the wishes of their parents. In Manitoba the schools were Protestant and Roman Catholic, but a Bill was passed by the Manitoba House of Assembly during the session of 1890, pro-