

ITALIAN FAMILIES WOULD SUPPORT A WEST END SCHOOL

Well Known Catholic Resident Advocates More Instruction and Less Religion.

SCHOOLS ARE NOW
TOO FAR REMOVED

Majority of 300 Italian Families Want English in School and Religion at Home.

"There are three hundred Italian families in the west end," said Mr. Luigi Palumbo to the Star to-day, "and most of them want a public school established in the section west of the C. P. R. track. I would send my children there, and support it and I know that my friends would all do the same."

At present, the children from that section of the city have to attend either the St. Ignatius School in Steelton, which is supposed to take care of all Roman Catholics west of Gore street, or the King Edward School. Both of these schools are, in Mr. Palumbo's opinion, too far away for the children, and besides that he thinks that there are too many tracks for them to cross in getting to either of them. There are the C. P. R. tracks and the street car tracks to be considered.

He also thinks that a public school would be more satisfactory than a separate school in that quarter. Besides the Italians, there are living there numbers of Swedes, Norwegians, Finns, Poles and Austrians, many of whom are not Roman Catholics.

"The Separate school is only for Catholics," said Mr. Palumbo, "while the public school is for everybody."

Mr. Palumbo thinks that there is too much time devoted to religious exercises in the separate schools, and thinks that more attention should be paid to the study of the regular school subjects.

"I am a good Catholic myself," he said, "but school is one thing and church is another. The children are only in school about five or six hours a day, and that leaves eighteen hours for me to teach them about religion, or for the priest to do so."

Mr. Palumbo says that the majority of the children attending the St. Ignatius School are French, which he thinks is not conducive to the teaching of English.

"For me, I talk Italian with my children at home," he said, "so they will not forget it and can use it, but they should be able to talk English too. If my boy can talk English he can get a job in a store or a bank, and won't have to go out with the pick and shovel."

Mr. Palumbo is of the opinion that the board should build this year, for it will be much more expensive and more difficult to secure a suitable site in a couple of years.