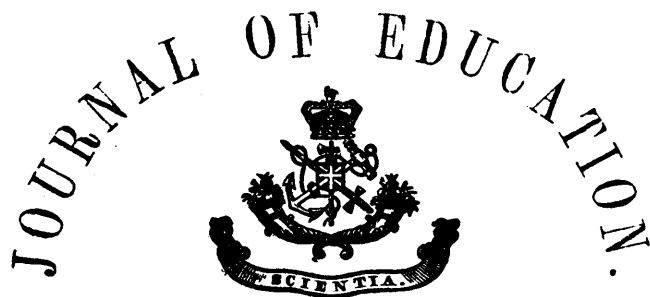


There are but few teachers who have not had to feel annoyance at the failure of their pupils, when brought to the test of an examination in some branch of knowledge involving principles which they have been laboriously taught, but which they have not thoroughly mastered. These failures cannot, of course, be remedied, but they may be diminished by the teacher constantly keeping in view this principle of thoroughness which we are advocating.



TORONTO, JULY, 1852.

#### BASIS OF THE SCHOOL APPORTIONMENT FOR 1852.

In connexion with the accompanying Circular to the Clerks of the various Municipalities in Upper Canada, notifying them of the apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for 1852, we give the following explanatory remarks by the Chief Superintendent, on the basis selected to make that apportionment.

Each of the successive school Acts for Upper Canada has contemplated the census of the country as the basis of school apportionment to the various municipalities, but has allowed another basis of apportionment in the event of a defective census. Unfortunately, no full and accurate census of the whole population has been taken until the commencement of the current year; and, during several years, the school population, as reported by the local school authorities, has been adopted as the best basis of apportioning the school moneys. Having been long convinced that these returns were, in many instances, partial or defective, I gave full and explicit directions to trustees and local superintendents for compiling their annual reports for last year; and this year returned such reports as appeared to have been carelessly or inaccurately compiled, with additional suggestions for their correction. I also addressed a Circular to the census commissioners, in the various counties, for copies of the population returns of their respective counties; and I applied to the provincial board of statistics, at Quebec, for the same purpose. I have not even yet received reports from all the local school superintendents. I have received copies of the population returns from several of the census commissioners, and very courteous answers from them all; but it was not until the last week in June, that I succeeded in obtaining, by personal application at the statistical office, in Quebec, complete returns of all the townships, (with one exception) cities, towns, and villages in Upper Canada.

The apportionment of the legislative school grant for the current year, is, therefore, based upon the population returns of the census commissioners—the official census of the province—and not upon the school population returns of the local school authorities. That there has been gross exaggeration in the school population returns of many school divisions, in order to obtain as large an apportionment as possible from the school fund, may be fairly inferred from the fact, that by the present school Act imposing severe penalties in case of conviction of making false returns, in order to obtain an undue share of the school fund, the gross number of children of school age in Upper Canada, according to the local school reports recently received at this department, is nearly four thousand less than that reported the year preceding; whereas, according to the increase of the population at large, the school population must have been at least ten thousand more in December, 1851, than it was in December, 1850. Though the aggregate sum apportioned in support of common schools in Upper Canada, in 1852, is about the same as last year, there will be found to be considerable variation in the amount apportioned to the counties, townships, cities, towns and villages respectively—the boundaries of several counties having been altered by legislative enactment, several villages having become incorporated into muni-

cipalities, besides the variation in the population returns of the census commissioners, and those of the local school authorities. I think the apportionment of the legislative school grant for the current year, is the most equitable which has yet been made—withholding from some municipalities what they have heretofore obtained by exaggerated school population returns, and giving to other municipalities what they would have been heretofore entitled to receive, had others made as honest returns as themselves. It should also be recollected, that in some counties, townships, cities, towns, and villages, there is a much more rapid increase of population than in others.

[OFFICIAL.]

*Circular to Clerks of Counties, notifying them of the Apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for the year 1852.*

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit herewith, a certified copy of the apportionment of the legislative school grant for the current year, to the several townships of the county municipality of which you are clerk. You will please notify each local superintendent in your county of this apportionment, so far as it relates to his charge, as provided in the 1st clause of the 31st section of the school Act.

For the convenience of the public, His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to direct that, hereafter, the legislative school grant for Upper Canada shall be payable by this Department, Toronto, instead of at the Office of the Honorable the Receiver General, Quebec.

The amount apportioned to your county will be paid to your treasurer, or his attorney, at this Office, upon application, in terms of my recent Circular to wardens of counties, dated the 1st of May last. In addition, I have to state, that no part of the apportionment, although made, will be paid to any of those counties and townships, (as enumerated in the annexed note\*) from which no certified abstract of the school accounts for last year has been transmitted by you to this Office, as required by the 5th clause of the 27th section of the school Act—nor until such abstract shall have been received at this Department. From those counties and townships not enumerated in the note, satisfactory abstracts of school accounts have been received, and are hereby acknowledged. The clause of the Act referred to, requires each county council “to appoint annually, or oftener, auditors, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the county treasurer, and other officers, to whom school moneys shall have been intrusted, and to report to such council; and the county clerk shall transmit to the Chief Superintendent of Schools, on or before the First day of March in each year, a certified copy of the abstract of such report, and also give such explanation relating thereto, as far as he may be able, which may be required by the Chief Superintendent.” In the 40th section of the Act, it is provided, “that no county, city, town, or village shall be entitled to a share of the legislative school grant,

\* The following are the Counties and townships from which no certified abstract of school accounts, for last year, has been received at the Educational Department, as authorized and required by the 5th clause of the 27th section of the school Act, up to the date of this Circular:—

1. United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.
2. “ Prescott and Russell—also notice of appointment of local superintendents, and copy of proceedings of county council on educational matters.
3. County of Carleton (imperfect). [The local superintendent for the township of March has not yet transmitted his report.]
4. Township of Bastard, County of Leeds (imperfect.)
5. “ Burgess, South, do. do.
6. “ Crosby, South, do. do.
7. “ Kitley, do. do.
8. “ Bathurst, County of Lanark.
9. “ Beckwith, do. do.
10. “ Burgess, North, do. do.
11. “ Darling, do. do.
12. “ Flimsley, North, do. do.
13. “ Lanark, do. do.
14. “ Ramsay, do. do.
15. “ Sherbrooke, North, do. do.
16. “ Admaston, do. Renfrew.
17. “ Bagot, do. do.
18. “ Bromley, do. do.
19. “ Horton, do. do.
20. “ Pakenham, do. do.
21. “ Ross, do. do.
22. “ Westneath, do. do.
23. County of Hastings—also notice of appointment of local superintendents and copy of educational proceedings of county council.
24. County of Prince Edward.
25. “ Simcoe.
26. Township of Ancaster, County of Wentworth.
27. “ Blinbrooke, do. do.
28. “ Esquesing, do. Halton.
29. United Counties of Lincoln and Welland.
30. County of Oxford (imperfect.)
31. United Counties of Wellington, Waterloo, and Grey (imperfect.)
32. do. do. Middlesex and Elgin (imperfect.)
33. do. do. Huron, Perth, and Bruce.

The clerk of the county of Kent has not notified the department of the appointment of local superintendents, nor furnished copies of proceedings of county council on educational matters.