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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR ONTARIO.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 19th February, 1876.

His Honor the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR has been pleased to make the following appointment, viz. :—

The Honourable ADAM CROOKS, a member of the Executive Council of the Province of Ontario and the Treasurer thereof, to be Minister of Education in and for the Province of Ontario.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 26th February, 1876.

His Honor the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz. :—

JOHN GEORGE HODGINS, of the City of Toronto, Esq., LL.D. to be Deputy Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario.

ALEXANDER MARLING, of the City of Toronto, Chief Clerk in the Education Department, Gentleman, to be Secretary of the Education Department of the Province of Ontario.

PARTING CIRCULARS FROM THE REVEREND DR. RYERSON.

I.—To the Municipal Councils of Counties, Townships, Cities, Towns and Villages in Ontario.

GENTLEMEN,—On retiring from a connection with you, in matters of education, extending back to 1844—four years anterior to the complete organization of our present municipal system—I desire to say a few parting words.

(*Early School Legislation.*)—Devoting, as I did, a part of the year 1844 and the whole of the year 1845 to visiting and investigating the systems of public instruction in the principal States of the neighbouring republic and the edu-

ating countries of Europe, I laid before our Government early in 1846 the results of my inquiries, and the conclusions at which I had arrived, in a Report entitled "*Report on a System of Public Elementary Instruction for Upper Canada,*" pp. 191. My Report was approved by the Government, and I was directed to prepare a draft of Bill to give it effect. That Bill was brought in and conducted through the House by the Hon. W. H. Draper (then Attorney-General), and became law in the spring of 1846; it was based upon the system of Municipal (or District) Councils, as they then existed, and provided for the establishment of a Normal School, and uniformity of school text books as well as school libraries. In 1847 I prepared a draft of another School Bill, which was introduced into and conducted through the Legislature by the Hon. J. Hillyard Cameron (then Solicitor-General), creating one Board of School Trustees for each city and town, with other provisions. A change of government taking place soon after, the late Hon. Robert Baldwin introduced in 1848 his famous Bill for the complete system of county and township Municipal Councils. In 1850, at Mr. Baldwin's request, I prepared a draft of School Bill consolidating the previous Acts, and introducing amendments suggested by my experience and by various parties at County (then District) Conventions which I held in each county of the Province during the autumn of 1847, adapting the whole to the new municipal system. Mr. Baldwin devoted two days with me in adapting every part of that Bill to the municipal laws of which he was the author, and in perfecting its provisions, as far as we could; so that it became and continued the charter of our school system until 1874—for the several School Bills passed between 1850 and 1874 were but extensions and supplements to the School Act of 1850, suggested by the progress of the system, and concurred in by County School Conventions held throughout all the counties in 1853, 1859, 1866 and 1869.

(*Consulting with the People.*)—I have made these references to recall to your recollection the fact that not a single important feature of our School Laws has been adopted without previous consultation with the people of the Province, during the five visits I made to the several counties, holding a public Convention in each county for the purpose of consulting on educational matters. At all these conventions, among the subjects proposed in the circulars calling them, were—

"To answer any questions which may be proposed, and give any explanations which may be desired, respecting the several provisions of the Common School Law." "To consider any suggestions which may be made for its improvement." "The importance and facilities of Normal School Training of Teachers," "The establishment of Public School Libraries; regulations for