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1. GIRLS IN THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

As considerable discussion has arisen on the subject of the alleged non admission of girls to the Grammar school of Ontario the Chief Superintendent of Education has addressed the following letter to the newspapers on the subject. He says:—

"The whole of the income of the Grammar School Fund is annually apportioned and distributed among the grammar schools of this province. It can of course, be of no personal interest to myself or to any other member of the Council of Public Instruction, whether any one Grammar School gets more or less of the fund. The simple question is whether the distribution of the fund is equitable.

"The principle of distribution which has been adopted is the average attendance of boys in the prescribed course of studies; and this is done according to the opinion of the first Law Officer of the Crown respecting the provisions of the Grammar School law.

"The parties complaining wish to have the average attendance of girls also included as the basis of distribution, and denounce me, and also the Council of Public Instruction for excluding girls from the Grammar Schools.

"No regulation has been adopted, or decision given, against admitting girls to pursue the whole course of Grammar School studies if the Trustees and Master of any Grammar School wish thus to admit girls. There is no more regulation against the admission of girls than of boys to the Grammar Schools. There

is even an express regulation to admit girls to learn French, without studying Greek or Latin. But the real object of the complaining parties would seem not the admission of girls to the Grammar Schools, but paying the masters out of the Grammar School fund for the admission of girls and relieving the parents of such girls from the payment of fees on account of the admission of their daughters. But there are many Grammar Schools, where girls are admitted, that would be losers of the grant were distributed on the basis of the girls' and boys' attendance combined. If such a mode of computation were adopted, the rate per pupil would of course be smaller than when the boys alone are reckoned.

"According to the returns 1867, if a school had an average attendance of ten boys and four girls, and the girls were reckoned in the distribution of the grant, such a school would receive precisely the same grant as it would if the boys only were reckoned, the higher rate per pupil in the latter case, making up the amount.

"There were upwards of 30 schools which admitted girls in 1867, and yet, if the girls had been reckoned their grants would have been less than they are the current year. Of course where the average of girls attendance is in a greater proportion to that of boys than 4 to 10 the grants would have been larger while those with a smaller proportion of girls would have had smaller grants.

"On the other hand, there are trustees and masters of Grammar Schools who have never admitted the propriety of educating large girls and boys together; who confine the whole work and strength of the teaching staff to teaching boys the prescribed course of Grammar School subjects, and complain as unjust to them that a part of the Grammar School Fund should be diverted from them to other Grammar Schools for persuading numbers of girls to learn Latin—a waste of time in nineteen cases out of twenty, and a preventative to such girls getting a solid and useful English education. For myself, I have never had a daughter learn Latin; but I am, of course no rule for others.

"Where a girl happens to possess great talents for learning languages, and her parents wish her to master the whole family of the most popular modern languages, the preliminary study of Latin would, in my opinion, greatly facilitate the accomplishment of that object. But I cannot suppose there are from 20 to 40 such feminine prodigies in each of a half dozen country towns and villages in this province in a single year, Nor do I think the Grammar School fund was intended to provide for such cases.