

perienched Chief Superintendent to refer to, Doctor Ryerson wrote a strong Letter of encouragement to the new Minister. Mr. Crooks was greatly pleased to receive this Letter, and, in response, wrote to Doctor Ryerson as follows:—

I have to thank you very much for your kind Letter of the 16th ultimo, and for your expressions of sympathy and friendship. I was never before in my whole career so oppressed with weighty responsibility than when the duty was cast on me of endeavouring to fill the position of Minister of Education, and there have been times since when I felt that I would be unable to cope with the difficulties which seemed to surround me. The more experience I gained the more I understood how securely you had laid the foundation of our System, and built upon it from time to time until it preserved the essential characteristic of a natural one. I have spoken of your labours, as having resulted in our now being able with pride to point to our Public Schools, managed and supported by the people in their several localities and free to all, as affording a satisfactory Elementary Education to every child in the Province, while in our High Schools we possess the means for Secondary Education beyond those in any of the States of the Union and even in Scotland.

We were fortunate in understanding the different points and in having almost to our hand the means of making our educational Exhibit in Philadelphia a success. From the opening week of the Exhibition until its close there was but one opinion expressed by strangers and our own people, that we had best understood the idea, and practically carried it out, of an Educational Exhibition. Amongst the many, the Honourable the Premier of Quebec, and Lieutenant-Governor Tilley, of New Brunswick, expressed to me their gratification for what our Department had done for Canada.

I have had all the financial operations of the Depository put into the shape of a Report since the examination of its affairs by Mr. Brown, the Accountant. The Members will readily understand from this how careful and advantageous to the Schools the Depository management has been. I have everything one can desire in Doctor Hodgins, Mr. Marling, Doctor May and the Officials of the Department, and I am sure nothing but the greatest cordiality will continue to prevail. . . . In fact, you have conquered all the difficult questions in which Legislation is necessary. I intend, amongst other amendments, to facilitate the formation of Township School Trustee Boards, by leaving it to a majority of the School Sections both to "form" the Board, or to "return" to the Section System. The public sentiment is growing in favour of the views on this subject which I find in your Report were so ably urged by yourself. . . .

Sincerely yours,

TORONTO, December 11th, 1876.

ADAM CROOKS.

NOTE. In addition to a letter of acknowledgement to Mr. Crooks, Doctor Ryerson wrote to me the following Letter:—

I yesterday, (Christmas Day), received from Mr. Crooks a Letter, containing everything that could gratify my feelings and fill me with humble gratitude to God for His goodness and the success of the past, my work having passed through the crucible of the severe inquiry, and is pronounced good in every respect.

In the course of his Letter he says, "I have everything one can desire in Doctor Hodgins, Mr. Marling, Doctor May and the Officials of the Department."

Wishing you all the richest blessings of the New Year, I remain, as ever, Yours most affectionately,

TORONTO, 26th December, 1876.

EGERTON RYERSON