

UPPER CANADA CIRCULAR.—Continued.

that upon which it rested before, yet confers upon members of the Roman Catholic persuasion, powers and distinctions which are not possessed by any class of Protestants in Upper Canada, and which their own Representatives would never consent to confer upon them.

2. While in our public schools, the religious rights and faith of pupils of all persuasions are equally protected, and while I am persuaded of the superior advantages of those schools in respect to both economy and all the appliances of instruction, I shall, on this very account, in addition to the obligations of official duty, do all in my power to lessen the disadvantages of those who prefer separate schools, and secure to them every right and advantage which the Separate School act confers.

3. I have prepared blank forms of semi-annual returns, which you are to make to me, and on the receipt of which I will determine and pay half-yearly the sums from the Legislative school grant to Roman Catholic separate schools. To enable me to do so the more readily it will be necessary for you to appoint some person in this city to receive and give duplicate receipts for the sums payable to your school according to law. The blank power of attorney enclosed in duplicate can therefore be filled up and presented by your agent to this Department. The enclosed semi-annual returns for Roman Catholic separate schools are precisely the same as those required of the trustees of our public schools. The annual reports required from trustees of Roman Catholic separate schools, are also the same as those required from trustees of the public schools.

4. On application, I will furnish you with school registers, and herewith transmit to you also, blank returns for the first six months of the current year. I will also supply your school with maps, apparatus and libraries upon the same terms as the public schools; that is, I will add one hundred per cent. to whatever sum or sums you may forward for such maps, apparatus, or library books as you may select from the descriptions and general catalogues of the department.

5. The several clauses of the Separate School Act are clearly and simply expressed; but should any doubts arise as to your duties or proceedings, I shall be happy to give you every information in my power.

6. As the 14th section of the Act referred to, requires me to base the apportionment of each six months, upon the semi-annual returns of the previous year, and as I am anxious to ensure the utmost correctness in making the apportionment for the current year, I will thank you to have the kindness to fill up and return, to this Department, the enclosed blank return, relative to school attendance of last year. The information is not in the possession of this Department, but it can be easily compiled from the school records in your possession.

LOWER CANADA CIRCULAR.—Continued.

(5.) The Trustees of dissentient Schools have the same duties to fulfil and the same powers to exercise as the Commissioners for the government of Schools under their control. See 26th clause of the Act 9 Vict. ch. 27, and the 18th of the Act 12 Vict. ch. 50.

(52) They ought to report to this office respecting the schools under their control at the same period as is designated by the law for the performance of that duty by the School Commissioners.

(53) They ought also to render an account of the manner in which they have expended that part of the Government Grant placed at their disposal.

(54) They should exact from the Teachers the keeping of a Journal similar to that required from the Teachers of Schools under the control of the Commissioners.

(55) It will be observed, however, that the 21st clause of the Act 9 Vict. ch. 27, placing at the disposition of School Commissioners all the lands and School Houses acquired, given to, or erected under the authority of formal Education acts or of the present Act, gives no power or right to the Trustees of dissentient schools to demand the use or possession of the like property, unless they were in possession of the same at the time of the passing of this Act.

(56) The present Act authorizes the establishment of dissentient schools only upon the ground of religious difference, and to the inhabitants only forming the minority.

(57) In all their communications with this office, the Trustees of dissentient Schools will be governed by the same rules as the School Commissioners.

Instructions to Inspectors of Schools.

(58) The School Inspectors, according to the true intent of the Act 14 and 15 Vict., cap. 97, will visit all the schools in operation in the School Municipalities within the limits of their respective jurisdiction.

3. (59) The Inspectors will also specify whether the schools are held under the control of the School Commissioners, or under that of the Dissenting Trustees, if they are Common Schools frequented by children both of Catholic and Protestant parentage, if they are mixed schools frequented by children of both sexes, without distinction either of origin or religion.

17. (60) The Inspectors will visit all the school-houses built under the control of the Commissioners of Schools, or of the Dissenting Trustees, as well as the lands upon which they are situated, &c.

J. G. H.,
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EDUCATION OFFICE, Toronto, March, 1856.