

necessity of educating their children. Some sections have availed themselves of the provisions of the new Act, and taxed themselves, not only for the teachers' salary, but also for a supply of text-books."

John Allanby, Esq., Ops: "I am of opinion that, this year, school matters will be placed upon a more satisfactory basis—teachers being elevated in society will perform their duties more efficiently; and the attentive perusal of the *Journal of Education*, with the enlarged powers given to the trustees by the late school Act, ought to do more to stimulate ambition and zeal, than any other means heretofore devised."

Rev. James Geggie, Edwardsburgh: "This report shows more than one-fourth of the children of school age are not on the roll. This arises, in a great measure, from the want of a due concern on the part of parents, as to the instruction of their children. The rate-bill has also its influence in keeping children from school."

George Turner, Esq., North Oxford: "As it regards the free school system, I will add, that as far as I have been able to obtain information on the subject, I think there is no doubt of its superior utility; and with respect to popular opinion, I believe eight-tenths would be in favour of it, provided it was enacted by the legislature to raise the amount necessary by a general tax: but with regard to local taxation, there is a great diversity of opinion."

Thomas Chamberlain, Esq., Richmond, &c.: "I have endeavoured to impress upon the people of this township the necessity of having free schools, and have found a great number in favour of the measure. I believe, that if a law were passed at the commencement of a new Parliament, making free schools imperative, before the end of four years, the measure would become so popular, that members would be in no danger of being unseated for passing such a law. But they are not independent enough to try such a bold, although useful measure, near the eve of a new election."

Rev. Joshua H. Johnson, Yonge: "So far as I am capable of judging, a growing interest is felt among the rural population in common schools. The free school system is every day gaining ground. I believe that upwards of half of the schools in Yonge are to be supported on that principle during the current year."

Benjamin S. Cory, Esq., M. D., Hillier: "As an individual, I am a most ardent advocate for the principle of free schools. I consider it one of the greatest boons any legislature can confer upon any people. It is obvious, that were it general all over the country, it would press less heavily upon some than it does now, when a school section decides upon the adoption of free schools. Even under the present law, as I view it, the wealthy and the childless are remotely far greater gainers by the carrying out of the principle of free schools than they seem willing to admit. How much better—nay how infinitely preferable—is it to submit to a trifling tax for the purposes of education, and consequently for the promotion of virtue and correct principles, than to submit to a similar and perhaps greater one to defray the expenses of the administration of criminal justice, growing out of the want of such education. I hope, in common with thousands in the country, that you will officially urge upon the legislature, to so amend the present law as to make the principle of free schools the law of the land, with as little delay as in its wisdom it can."

W. Johnston, Esq., Brantford: "I am sorry to state that our schools, with a few exceptions, are in a backward state; but the almost general feeling evinced in favour of free schools, taught by well qualified and well paid teachers, is significant of a determination to do better."

Rev. John Armour, Sarnia, &c. Second extract, 6th May: "I have just returned from visiting several schools. I believe the present effort, if persevered in, will, in a short time, revolutionize our school system incalculably for the better. The people are becoming more generally alive to the great advantages of education. The teachers see more impressively the necessity of improvement in their profession; and the schools in this neighbourhood are advancing in discipline, in management, and in thoroughness of teaching, and progress in learning. I have prepared a long lecture 'on the expediency and advantages of the free school system,' and have delivered it in various sections under my charge; and the people almost universally are giving way to fair argument and plain reasoning. I purpose to make this my principal topic of discussion in lecturing this year; and I have sanguine hopes that there will be a great increase of sectional schools in this part of the country which will adopt this principle next year."

[OFFICIAL.]

Circular to the Clerks of the several Counties and Union of Counties in Upper Canada, notifying the apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for the year 1851.

SIR,

As required by the provisions of the first and second clauses of the 35th section, in connexion with the 6th clause of the same section of the Common School Act for Upper Canada, 13th and 14th Victoria, chapter 48, I have the honour to annex herewith, the certified apportionment of the legislative school grant for the current year, to the several townships in the municipality of which you are clerk.

2. The gross amount apportioned this year to the several counties, townships, cities, towns, and villages in Upper Canada (deducting the sums authorized by the 39th and 41st sections of the school Act) is greater, than that apportioned to the entire province last year; but separate apportionments having been now made to several towns and incorporated villages recently erected into school municipalities, the amount apportioned to some individual counties may appear smaller in consequence.

3. The money apportioned to your county will, as provided by the 42nd section of the school Act, be payable to the county treasurer, or his attorney, at the office of the Honourable the Receiver General, Toronto, on the 1st day of July next.

4. As required by the 1st clause of the 31st section of the school Act, you will please notify the local superintendents of this apportionment, so far as it relates to the townships under their charge respectively.

5. It not having been considered advisable this year to adopt arbitrarily the basis, in the distribution of the school fund among the several school sections, authorized by the first clause of the 31st section of the Act, I am directed by the Chief Superintendent to submit for the consideration of the county council the propriety of adopting this year the new system for the distribution of the school fund—according to the average attendance of pupils. Some county councils have already expressed a wish that the former method of distributing the school fund—according to the school population returns of the previous year—should be continued this year also. In all such cases, the Chief Superintendent has expressed his concurrence in the wishes of the council.

6. If you have not already done so, you will please notify this department of the decision of the county council upon this subject, at your earliest convenience, so as to enable the Chief Superintendent to issue his instructions to the local superintendents, as contemplated in the first clause of the 31st section of the school Act.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. GEORGE HODGINS,
Deputy Superintendent.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 1st of May, 1851.

APPORTIONMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL GRANT TO THE VARIOUS COUNTIES, TOWNSHIPS, CITIES, TOWNS, AND INCORPORATED VILLAGES IN UPPER CANADA, FOR THE YEAR 1851.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of the Apportionment of the Legislative School Grant for the Years 1849, 1850, and 1851:—

	IN 1849.			IN 1850.			IN 1851.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Apportioned to the Counties,	17,253	18	11½	17,394	4	4½	16,987	10	0*
Apportioned to the Cities,	837	10	2½	843	3	4½	881	0	6
Apportioned to the Towns,	731	7	4	736	6	2	829	1	0
Apportioned to the Incorporated Villages, &c.	286	7	0
Special cases,	45	0	0½	35	0	0½	43	3	0½
Gross total apportioned,	£18,867	16	6	£19,008	13	10½	£19,027	1	6

* See second paragraph of the foregoing official circular to Clerks of Counties, accompanying this apportionment.

† Apportioned to District Model Schools and Poor Schools.

‡ To make up a deficiency of apportionment to the township of Uxbridge, in 1849 and 1850.