

Appendix
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1st July.

the Office of the Provincial Secretary, that of the Executive Council, the Inspector General, and Receiver General. It is impossible that five Government Offices, including the Education Office, should be much longer liable to be troubled every moment, and even overcharged with labour for one and the same object. Besides, the true interests of Education demand more regularity and accuracy in the transmission of School Reports and accounts, in order that the Teachers might be punctually paid. I anticipate, then, that being bound to make only two annual payments for the support of Schools, I shall however, have to make four, with the consent of the Governor, but no more; that is to say, when the receipts of the order of His Excellency the Governor General permit me, towards the end of July and September respectively, for the first, and the end of January and March, for the second six months.

I shall not in any case make a Grant for Schools without being furnished with Reports in due form and complete, and satisfactory accounts of receipts and expenditure, and also receipts in duplicate of the last remittance *separate*; and it must be understood, that upon these the Grant shall be transmitted, neither sooner nor later, than on the receipt of the order of His Excellency to this effect, and without its being necessary to write to this Office on the subject.

Time, and especially care, are required to examine and classify all these documents, as well as those which are forwarded in support of an application for aid in the erection of School Houses, and whether in this Office or out of it, the interests of Education require that this examination should not be interrupted at any moment by a correspondence with the Superintendent, useless to the attainment of the object which those have in view who have recourse to it.

When these documents shall be found defective, the parties interested will as usual be written to immediately; but when correct and satisfactory, the only answer which they can expect will be the remittance; nothing more is requisite, as otherwise the business would never come to an end, seeing that there are more than three hundred and forty School Corporations.

However, in requesting the School Commissioners and Secretary-Treasurers to take these remarks in good part, I cannot recommend them too strongly to take the greatest care in having all their documents in good order, and always in accordance with the forms given for that purpose and accompanying Circular No. 9.

The local authorities cannot take too much pains in regard to the regular delivery of the School contributions, and in the case where it becomes necessary to sue negligent contributors, or those who are indisposed to pay their contributions, it will generally be found better, for many reasons which it would be unnecessary now to mention, to bring the cases before the Circuit Court; and if through any informality, the assessment roll should be declared annulled, the School Commissioners should proceed immediately to replace it, as by the amended Act they have power to do.

Under the 29th section of the Act amending the 9 Vict. Chap. 27, the Teachers, subject otherwise to the effect of the 50th section of the latter, with the exceptions therein mentioned, shall be held liable to the Examinations required by law, and be furnished each with a certificate of qualification for the first of July, 1852. The interests of education, and the true interest of the Teachers require them to prepare as quickly as possible to submit to this Examination in a manner honourable to themselves, and encouraging to

the friends of education, before the arrival of the period when it shall have become imperative to do so. With a view of facilitating their preparatory studies, and their subsequent examination, I shall conclude this Circular with a series of questions which they will have to prepare themselves to answer in a manner to satisfy the Examiners on the various branches of instruction, of which, a reasonable and practical knowledge is required by the 50th section of the 9 Vict., Chap. 27. These questions are adopted by the Board of Catholic Examiners for the District of Montreal, and I hope that they will be equally approved by the members of the other Boards of Examiners, whom I cannot too strongly recommend to encourage the teachers to take an interest, as well as to be zealous for uniformity in teaching as much as possible.

But before concluding, it remains that I should offer some essential advice to the Teachers, and I do this with the most friendly solicitude for their interest personally, as well as for that of the cause of education; and that is, to avoid carefully every kind of irritating and vexatious controversy—not meddling with public affairs, and litigious questions, much less in those of families, and to be altogether strangers to political parties, which oppose and agitate each reciprocally; for all this is detrimental to the success of the cause of education.

The father of a family who belonged to a party opposed to that to which the teacher might connect himself, might not send his children to such teacher's school, or he might send them imbued with all that they shall have heard to his disadvantage and injury, and thus prejudiced, they will consequently make little or no progress at his school. Here, they are lost, their time is wasted—their studious habits renounced, and it is well if they do not become with their fellow students the cause of disorder and public scandal. The mission of the teacher is to train up subjects for the country, and not partisans for his friends.

N. B.—Among the several forms which I have added to those which accompanied my Circular No. 9, will be found one for an engagement *in writing*, which the teachers will be requested to make with the School Commissioners under the control of whom they will respectively hold their schools. I should recommend both parties to follow it exactly and to specify therein the number of months for which the teachers have engaged to keep schools, with the other conditions mentioned in the engagement, in order to avoid in future the many difficulties resulting in a want of formality, exactness in or a sufficient explanation, which for the past has often characterized engagements between the School Commissioners and the Teachers.

The eight months of School required by law, are one of the least of the conditions on which the School Commissioners, in complying with others, according to the 27 section, can on their part offer to obtain the Legislative allotment for Schools. This condition, therefore, relates, to the duties of the School Commissioners, and the law, in requiring that of them, as the least of which does not forbid *more* which it leaves to their discretion; but from which, in the interest of Education, they ought always to endeavour to derive the most. In fact, if the School Commissioners should content themselves with requiring only the *minimum* of the period of instruction fixed by law, the schools would be closed for a third of the year, in which case the children would necessarily forget a considerable portion of the knowledge which with much pains they had acquired during the eight months only of School. The School Commissioners should therefore require in all cases more than eight months; the School year might indeed as well be eleven months as eight.

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