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With the single exception of Dr. Ryerson there is no other who has had as much to do with the development of the educational systems of Ontario as Dr. Hodgins. For nearly forty years he has been at the helm of the educational ship, and, while all agree (and none more heartily than the subject of this sketch) that to his great captain, Dr. Ryerson, the credit is mainly due, it is certain that the perseverance, the faithfulness, and especially the administrative ability of Dr. Hodgins, contributed very largely to the triumphant success which they so harmoniously accomplished.

Dr. Hodgins was born in Dublin in 1821, and came to Canada when twelve years of age. He was educated, therefore, chiefly in this Province, and few of her sons, either by birth or adoption, have so well repaid the debt which they owe her. He attended the Upper Canada Academy, and Victoria College, Cobourg. He received the degree of M.A. from Victoria University. Although his duties were very onerous, he found time to graduate in the faculty of Law in Toronto University, from which he received the degrees of LL.B. in 1860, and of LL.D. in 1870. He was called to the Bar of Ontario in the year 1870.

His connection with the Education Department began in 1844, when he was appointed senior clerk. In 1846 he became Secretary of the Board of Education for Upper Canada, afterwards called the Council of Public Instruction. He was elevated to his present responsible position in 1855, and has filled it for nearly a quarter of a century with very much credit. He left nothing undone which he could possibly do to fit himself fully for the performance of the duties of his office. He spent a year at his own expense in Dublin after his appointment in familiarizing himself with the details of the management of the office of the National Board of Education in Ireland, and in learning the working of the Normal and Model Schools under their charge. Such zeal could only have one result. This result in the case of Dr. Hodgins is best expressed in the language of Dr. Ryerson in his letter to Hon. Edward Blake on his resignation of the position of Chief Superintendent of Education: "In the practical administration of the Education Department an abler, more judicious, and reliable man cannot be found than Dr. Hodgins. * * He is the most thoroughly trained man in all Canada for the Education Department; and is the ablest and most thorough ad-

ministrator of a public department with whom I have met." This tribute from a man under whom he had labored for thirty years, briefly summarizes the history of a record of which any man might justly be proud.

Dr. Hodgins is the author of several works, chiefly text-books, which have been very extensively used in the Public and High Schools of Canada. Those best known are Lovell's General Geography, Easy Lessons in General Geography, First Steps in General Geography, School History of Canada, and of the other British North American Provinces. He also published the Canadian School Speaker and Reciter, the School Manual, Lectures on School Law, Sketches and Anecdotes of the Queen, and The School House. One of the most important of his publications is

the Report of the Educational Features of the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. This is a most exhaustive and able work, and it received on its publication the most flattering testimonials both in America and Europe.

Besides these he has written very largely for the periodical press on educational, historical, commercial, and social questions. He was editor of the *Journal of Education* during the whole of the long period of its issue, first as the associate of Dr. Ryerson, and afterwards as sole editor. All his works give evidence of great care, correct taste, and wide research.

In social life Dr. Hodgins is well known to be a kind-hearted, genial, and cultured man. He has always taken a very active interest in many schemes of practical benevolence and Christian work, and has been frequently called upon to occupy honorable and responsible positions in connection with them. He has



been for many years Hon. Secretary of the Bible and Tract Societies, and of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. He is frequently called upon by his *Alma Mater* to occupy positions of honor and responsibility, and on all occasions performs his duties with ability and courtesy. He has permanently connected his name with Victoria University by founding the Ryerson, Webster, and Hodgins Prizes, and he has also graven it on the history of his adopted country by his long career of honorable labor. When the history of the educational progress of Ontario is written, the name of Dr. Hodgins must occupy a prominent position in it. His legal knowledge was of good service in arranging a school law which is the basis of the whole system, and he will merit the gratitude of posterity for aiding to establish the magnificent art museum of Toronto, and for his successful efforts in disseminating literature so widely through the agency of the People's Depository.