

some future period. Another advantage anticipated from these exercises was that they would afford to the Superintendent an opportunity of ascertaining generally the qualifications of Teachers. Many of the Teachers, perhaps even a majority of the whole in Canada West, have received only a very limited education, and even that not unfrequently obtained in Schools where none of the modern improvements in education had been introduced, thus leaving them in a great measure without sufficient knowledge either to communicate instruction or to exercise discipline to the best advantage. It is generally admitted that the art of teaching is so different from requirements in literature, that a man may in knowledge be a philosopher, and yet in the art of communicating instruction to others he may still be a child. For this reason Normal Schools are eagerly sought after in several of the Municipal Districts in the Province, to qualify Teachers for the discharge of their arduous and important duties. These, and similar considerations, led to the conviction that some effort should be made by the Provincial Superintendent during the District visitations to introduce the Normal training, without which the present generation of Teachers must pass away, and perhaps their successors in office, before the modern system of education finds its way into more than a very few of our Common Schools. But by introducing the system of annual lessons to Teachers on the best methods of communicating instruction, and exercising discipline, it was hoped that an excitement would have been given to personal exertion and private study which might have told almost immediately on the education of the rising generation.

By the School Act the Provincial Superintendent is required to address to such persons as shall be employed in carrying the provisions of the Act into effect, such suggestions as may tend to the establishment of uniformity in the conduct of Common Schools throughout the Province.

But while every Township has its own Commissioners, vested with full power to determine the qualifications of Teachers, the Course of Study, the Books to be used in their respective Townships, and the general rules for the management of Schools, all hope of establishing any uniform system of education is utterly vain. By the present method many different systems of education might be in operation in Canada West, changing every year, and these could not be harmonized and reduced into one uniform system by the suggestions of an individual who has no power to enforce any improvement, however valuable, or to correct a single absurdity, however glaring. To bring about a result so desirable would not only require a person of judgment and discretion, but also that his hands should be strengthened by the strong arm of the law.

Another important duty required of the Provincial Superintendent is to show the actual state and condition of Common Schools, with the money expended on them, and from what sources derived.

Much care has been bestowed to collect information for this purpose, but from the want of the annual Reports from the Municipal Councils it must necessarily prove very unsatisfactory.

The most important information which has been received for this Report is connected with the division of the Municipal Districts into School Districts, and their occupation by Teachers, from which a few facts are subjoined.

All the Municipal Districts, with the exception of one, have been divided either in whole or in part, into School Sections. The whole number of School Sections reported for 1842 is 2,245, of which 1,169 have been returned as having had Schools in operation, and leaving 1,076 School Sections without Teachers altogether.

There are 315 Townships in the Western Section of the Province, of which 245 Sections have been divided into 2,245 School Sections, which gives an average of 9 8-49 School Sections in each Township. But this average multiplied by 70, the number of undivided Townships, gives 641, which, added to 2,245, gives 2,886, which may be considered as the number of School Sections in Canada West, exclusive of the Corporate Towns.