

year; and, although Your Excellency was apprized of the case mentioned in my Report on the same subject for 1842, still, having in the meantime, drawn your favourable consideration to several principal facts which were of a nature to prove in a satisfactory manner, that the inhabitants have accepted the Common School Act passed in 1841, until new Legislative Provisions are made for the object of education, Your Excellency was pleased to approve of my Report in Council, and to grant the allocations claimed in behalf of the schools mentioned therein.

Your Excellency will be pleased to observe that the Common School Act having in contemplation, as it appears by the 6th clause quoted above, the possibility of a want of observance of certain forms and requirements, on the part of the local administrators of the said Act, these forms and requirements are not all rendered indispensable. Indeed, the actual operation of the Common Schools in a useful manner, the sums of money necessary for their support being levied upon the inhabitants by voluntary contributions, and the forwarding of the Reports thereof to the Education Office, appear to be the main objects of the law, and I am happy to be able to state, for the information of your Excellency, that these, the principal requirements of the law, have been complied with by the inhabitants generally, for 1843.

The allocations which were granted last year, in behalf of the schools of 1842, have contributed to give a great impulse to the measures which were already in progress for the promotion of education in this section of the Province. The schools which were then in existence are now conducted upon an improved plan; School Commissioners are elected every where, better teachers are procured, more strict regulations are observed; many new schools have been established in localities wherein there were none before; greater sacrifices are making, and the schools are generally operating in a more methodical and useful manner, equally for the better advantage of the children of every origin and creed.

In the above statement, I allude principally to the exertions which are making in 1844 for the establishment and maintenance of good schools throughout this section of the Province; but, as to the progress of education in 1843, especially since the grant of the government allocation, I cannot prove it in a more satisfactory manner than by comparing the total number of the schools which had a claim to the School Grant for 1842, with that contained in the following table:

In 1843, the total number of the said schools is, . . . . .	1298
In 1842, the total number was, including thirty schools, to which the allocation was distributed from the £500 granted by a responsible warrant, . . . . .	661

Augmentation in 1843, . . . . .	637
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Still, the schools are as yet far from being generally what they should be, and what they no doubt would be, with the daily helps of a law better adapted to our wants in that respect, and my humble opinion is, that nothing short of the Legislative measures which were lately introduced in the Provincial Parliament will prove efficacious to our proceedings, with a view of procuring to our youth the benefit of a practical education.

Owing to the want of a proper organization well known to all parties concerned in the Department of Public Instruction, the School Returns for 1843 were again generally very imperfect, and some of them were sent in very late.

The incompleteness of the School Return, for 1843, and the neglect or the impossibility of sending them to this Office in proper time, have been the cause of a great additional labour and delay in the completion of the present Report. An extensive correspondence has been actively carried on during more than three months on the subject of education, merely to obtain the proper information with regard to the schools of 1843.

The preceding mode of action, to which recourse was had for both the years 1842 and 1843, with a view of obtaining satisfactory information to lay before the Government, occasions likewise a great additional expense of postage, which could be avoided, if a proper law were placed in the hands of every person interested in its operation and effect. But, if a final good result can be attained as a compensation in this Office, for additional labour and expense, there can certainly be none for the anxiety deeply felt everywhere, especially in remote localities, with regard to obtaining the allocation, and for the great comparative loss sustained by the poor teachers, for want of receiving, in due time, their small share of the public fund.

In making the foregoing observations, my object is threefold, viz. :—

1st. To expose the great harm done to the inhabitants of this important portion of the Province, by the state of uncertainty, delay and anxiety existing with regard to the means of procuring education for their children, from the want of a proper law sufficiently distributed among them.