

instructions in music; it should be considered an indispensable branch of instruction.

*Drawing.*—This is another branch too much neglected. Writing and drawing should be taught contemporaneously; where this is the case, the art of writing is acquired much sooner and with more ease.

1. *Elgin.*—The schools of this municipality all had teachers, and were in operation at the dates of my visits, except the school of No. 3, which happened to have holidays. In this report I have to complain of no school as being in an unsatisfactory state. One school (No. 2) had a very small attendance. I wish commissioners would take a more active part in collecting school dues.

2. *Dundee.*—I found two schools vacant at this visit to the township, namely, No. 2 and the dissentient school; both these have not been kept regularly in operation for some time. The dissentient school can never do much good; it and No. 7 should be united; their union would make a strong district, and commissioners would be able to keep its school regularly in operation conducted by an efficient teacher.

Of the schools in operation, Nos. 1, 4, 7 and 8 showed considerable improvement; No. 1 the most. The children of No. 5 showed very little advancement.

The school commissioners shew considerable zeal in discharging their duties, and their Secretary-Treasurer deserves praise for his part of the work.

3. *St. Anicet.*—This parish cannot yet boast of many efficient schools. So frequently are teachers changed, and schools are thus brought under new discipline and children under new methods of teaching, that our difficulties in improving them can hardly be overcome. The people desire to have their own way in choosing instructors and change them as they wish. Commissioners and trustees generally yield to their desires and wishes, and thus in mending matters, as they think, things go from bad to worse. We have remonstrated against this evil, but, as yet, in the majority of municipalities, to little purpose.

The best conducted schools, and in which children show the most advancement, are No. 12, under commissioners, and Nos. 3 and 4, under trustees; next there are No. 1, under trustees, and Nos. 3 and 4 under commissioners; the rest are in a very tolerable state.

I may further remark that there is no want of desire with either the people or the commissioners and trustees to have good teaching and good teachers. Their notions about teaching, sound education, of principles, and ignorance of how schools should be conducted, are the great drawbacks.

4. *Godmanchester.*—The state of schools in Godmanchester, this year, varies not a little; some are conducted with considerable zeal, efficiency and success. No. 8, under the commissioners, gives the least satisfaction.

5. *Hinchinbrooke.*—In this report I have to speak favourably of nearly all the schools of this municipality. A reformation is gradually working less or more into them all, except the dissentient school. So often is this school without a teacher, so inferior are the teachers the trustees generally engage, and so short is the term of engagement, that the difficulties which these create are too formidable to be easily and in a short time overcome. The present teacher, however, should she be continued for some time, may do not a little to revive it.

The school commissioners of this township discharge their duties with not a little zeal, and their Secretary-Treasurer is likewise very attentive to his work.

6. *Franklin.*—Of the schools in operation all are in a fair state of advancement. The least improvement I observed was in writing and grammar.

I have to speak favorably of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners. His books are kept with much correctness, and everything recorded and entered with care.

7. *Huntingdon.*—The schools of this village are all in operation. The advancement of education since my first visits to their schools is most satisfactory.

The dissentient school is in a fair state, considering the difficulties with which the teacher has to contend. The greatest are the irregular attendance of the scholars and want of books and other school apparatus.

8. *St. Malachie.*—I have to report, and with much pleasure, of the very satisfactory state of the schools of this municipality. In my visits I was accompanied by one or more of the school commissioners, and in not a few schools some parents attended.

The commissioners are generally very attentive to their duties. They have a very efficient Secretary-Treasurer. Books well kept.

9. *St. Jean Chrysostôme, No. 1.*—Visited together two schools in this division, and found them pretty well conducted. The teachers of both are diligent, and not unsuccessful in advancing the children. The journals of the schools showed some increase of pupils.

The dissentient school of this part of the parish was not open at the time.

The school affairs of this division of the parish are at present in a much better condition than formerly, and the murmuring objections to the school law and property assessment are no more heard of.

Last year their finances were in rather a confused and unsatisfactory state. The difficulties then existing are now nearly got over. It is unfortunate that they are still in arrears with their teachers.

10. *St. Jean Chrysostôme, No. 2.*—I visited the mixed schools in this division of the parish, in company with Mr. Inspector Grondin. There are No. 8 and 14, both of which are in a favorable state of improvement. Schools Nos. 1, 11 and 13 are Protestant, and were visited by myself only. They are in a very satisfactory state, Nos. 1 and 11 especially.

11. *Hemmingford.*—In some municipalities education advances far less than in others; the same is the case in different districts. This applies to Hemmingford. Compared with some other municipalities, it lags behind; comparing some of its own districts with others, there is a marked difference.

12. *La Chute.*—At present all the schools in operation are in a satisfactory state. The quality of the instruction given is now much better.

The present Board of Commissioners, also, pay considerable attention to their duties. For their assiduity and zeal they deserve praise.

The college is, likewise, in a favorable condition, and is well worthy of public support; nor are its directors unmindful of their duties.

13. *Gore and Wentworth.*—I have repeatedly directed attention to the poverty of the Gore and Wentworth, and therefore the difficulty of keeping schools regularly in operation. The education which the children of these municipalities are receiving is, in consequence, meagre and imperfect. In not one of their schools, with the exception of No. 1, do I find the children advancing to my satisfaction.

I anticipate not a little help to rise the character of their schools, and keep them more regularly in operation, from the present chairman of the Board, the Rev. Mr. Griffin.

14. *Chatham, No. 1.*—This is another municipality favored with earnest, zealous, and watchful commissioners, who spend not a little of their time in attending to their school affairs. In engaging teachers they are frequently disappointed, depending more on diplomas for professional skill and scholarship than on that true test of qualification—previous success in conducting schools. This year their teachers, with one or two exceptions, are persons of fair qualifications, and in teaching, pretty successful. They all complain of that general hindrance to successful results in teaching, viz: irregular and unpunctual attendance.

15. *Chatham, No. 2.*—It is of great advantage to schools when school commissioners and inspectors work together, and the suggestions and recommendations of the latter are followed up. I single out this municipality as one such. It has been but a short time a distinct municipality for school purposes, yet they have built two new school-houses, one of which is the best in the township of Chatham; and their schools are in as good a condition as I could expect. Their Secretary-Treasurer is also very efficient, and otherwise of value to the Board.

16. *St. Andrew's.*—All the schools in this municipality have been kept regularly in operation during last year, except those of Nos. 11, 12 and 14. The academy is in its usual state of efficiency. The English academy is kept very regularly in operation and deserves public support.

Both the commissioners and their Secretary-Treasurer discharge their respective duties very satisfactorily. The trustees of the dissentient schools and their Secretary-Treasurer show considerable skill in attending to their duties.

17. *Grenville and Harrington.*—The people in this section of my field of inspection, who object to come under the School Act, are still triumphant.

#### CITY OF MONTREAL.

The schools under my supervision in the City of Montreal are in their usual very satisfactory state, and the number of children attending is steadily increasing. The greatest increase is in Mr. Arnold's model school. This school continues to be conducted in a very efficient manner; the most remarkable skill and success appear in his method of teaching arithmetic.