

papers and reports, between the Department of Education and William S. Summerby and O. Dufort, Inspectors of Public Schools in the united counties of Prescott and Russell, during the last year, on the subject of Public Schools in the French settlements of these counties. Also, copies of all reports respecting the alleged difficulties between the English and French ratepayers of the town of L'Orignal, or upon the propriety of establishing a Separate School for Protestant children in that town."

The cause of this motion was the publication of a series of letters in the *Toronto Mail* during the closing months of last year, whose purport was to prove that in the above named counties, speciously, slowly, and yet certainly, our liberties were being undermined, that the French language was gradually being made official, and that our much-praised Public School System is in every way being made subservient to that of Quebec. Starting from these as premises, it was argued that slowly and surely would they spread until some fine day we should awaken to find them only too truly stated. And on March 24th "Mr. Hardy presented to the House, by command of His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor :

"Return to an Order of the House of the 16th day of March instant, copies of all correspondence, papers and reports, between the Department of Education and William S. Summerby and O. Dufort, Inspectors of Public Schools, in the united counties of Prescott and Russell, during the last year, on the subject of Public Schools in the French settlements of these counties. Also copies of all reports respecting the alleged difficulties between the English and French ratepayers of the town of L'Orignal; or, upon the propriety of establishing a Separate School for Protestant children in that town. (*Sessional Papers, No. 48.*)"

Let the reader observe the last quoted, number *forty-eight*; for, on April 23rd, in Sessional Paper number *thirty-eight*, we read that the Legislature of Ontario was duly prorogued. When, therefore, the aforesaid correspondence, reports and papers shall see the light of day, we know not; nor is it safe to speculate upon its unknown contents. True, we have the word of the Hon. the Minister of Education, on Monday, April 18, given to the deputation from the Toronto Ministerial Association, that as soon as practicable the publication should take place; and in the meantime we can but wait, taking the Minister at his word. For this reason, and for others, the few scanty details which follow must be regarded more as a hasty compilation of what others have already seen and done, helped indeed by a very small amount of hearsay from trustworthy inhabitants, so far as the writer himself is concerned.

Before giving this compilation let the impartial reader remember the almost isolated position of the united counties; far off the main line of traffic—the Canada Atlantic, a lately finished railroad, barely traversing their south-western corner, and the projected Prescott and Vaudreuil Railroad a matter existing on paper—and the consequent absence of market facilities. Let him not forget to add thereto the thin population, the large extent of unavailable land compared with some of the richer south-western counties of the Province, and the deep snowdrifts, with the cold, long winter necessitating often the stabling of cattle for six months. Let him also add the almost total absence of mineral wealth, except the above mentioned springs, and here and there a little building stone, and that during the past century but seventy-seven per cent. of the available land has been settled. And noting the slight difference between them and