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THE ENGLISH ESTIMATES FOR EDUCATION IN 1858.

Mr. ADDERLEY said he should, with the permission of hon. members, direct their attention to the vote to which they were asked to assent, and which he would beg them to regard under three distinct heads. The whole amount of the vote for public education in Great Britain for the current year was, in round numbers, £663,000; of which sum, £157,000 might be considered as being expended under the head of building and furnishing schools; £400,000 in paying various classes of school-masters; and £57,000 in defraying the expenses connected with the management of those schools, and in the payment of the salaries of inspectors. The £157,000 might again be sub-divided into the two sums of £150,000 for building and £7,000 for the purchase of maps, diagrams, and scientific apparatus; while the £400,000 might be looked upon as having, for its principal items, £230,000 for the payment of the annual stipends of pupil teachers, &c.; £67,000 for grants to training, and £22,000 for grants to industrial schools. £16,000 of the remaining sum of £57,000, to which he had alluded, being expended upon the maintenance of the establishment in London, and £40,000 in defraying the cost of inspection. The increase in the present, as compared with the vote for last year, amounted to £83,000, and that sum, he might add, might be spread over the whole of the items of the vote with the exception of two—

namely, the vote for building, which was the same as that of last year, and the grant for assistant teachers. Now, the increase of £83,000, which he had just mentioned, must, he thought, be a circumstance of unmixed satisfaction to the committee. (Hear.) There were, indeed, only two suppositions upon which the contrary could fairly be anticipated to be the case; the one being that the present system of national education was one of which the committee did not approve, and therefore desired to have changed; the other, that the money laid out upon the promotion of that system was improperly and wastefully expended. With regard to the probable extension of the system, and the limits which might be set to the expense which it entailed, he might be permitted to state very briefly the calculation which he had made. We had laid out upon buildings for educational purposes, in the purchase of furniture, &c., about £1,000,000 from the period when the first grant had been made. That sum might be looked upon as permanent capital, which, at the rate of six per cent., would constitute an annual charge on the treasury of £60,000. Now, the current expenses for public education was, deducting the cost of building and furniture, £500,000; which, added to the £60,000 which he had just mentioned, made the entire annual charge upon the treasury, in connection with the subject, £560,000. With that amount of expenditure it was sought to provide for the education of 800,000 children. Now, taking the population of England, Scotland, and Wales at 24,000,000, one-eighth of that number, or 3,000,000, would come within the range of persons requiring education; from which number if one-third were deducted, to make allowance for those who would receive their education at private schools, 2,000,000 of children would still be left dependent for the means of instruction upon the national grant. The present rate of expenditure contemplated, as he had said before, the education of 800,000 children; and, starting from that fact as a basis of calculation, he had no hesitation in saying that, with the reductions which might be effected in the grant for buildings, in that for the maintenance of normal schools, and in other items of expenditure, a sum of about £1,000,000 per annum would be found to be sufficient to provide for the educational wants of the people, taking the population at the amount at which it at present stood. Now, if he were right in that view, he did not think the committee ought to object very strongly to intrusting the expenditure of so large a sum to such a department as the Council of Education, especially if the minutes of departments