

UPPER CANADA R. C. SEPARATE SCHOOL ACT.—Continued.

Authorized Text Books.

XXIX. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of each County Board of Public Instruction :

Thirdly. (D) To select (if deemed expedient), from a list of text-books recommended or authorized by the Council of Public Instruction, such books as they shall think best adapted for the use of the Common Schools of such County or Circuit; and to ascertain and recommend the best facilities for procuring such books.*

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

1. When a Roman Catholic Separate School is established, as provided in the R. C. Separate School Act of 1855, 18 Vict., chap. 131, it will be necessary for the Trustees to transmit the notice of its establishment, having the Certificate and Endorsement of the Reeve of the Township, or of the Chairman of the Board of School Trustees of the city, town or village, to the Chief Superintendent of Schools, so that the Department may be apprized of the legal existence of the school, and be enabled to transmit to the Trustees the necessary blanks, and also reserve a portion of the Legislative School Grant for the school.

2. When the Separate Schools in the wards of a city or town become united under one Board, as provided for in the 7th section of the said Act, the Board of Trustees should send a copy of the newspaper containing such notice to the Chief Superintendent of Schools.

3. The Educational Department will not be able to recognize any Roman Catholic Separate School neglecting to comply with the foregoing regulations in regard to the establishment and union of such schools.

4. Nor will any such separate school be entitled to share in the Legislative School Grant, unless the half-yearly returns, required by the 14th section of the said Act, be transmitted to the Chief Superintendent of Schools within a month after the expiration of the half year to which they refer.

CIRCULAR FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO TRUSTEES OF R. C. SEPARATE SCHOOLS IN U. C.

Dated the 18th June, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,—You will herewith receive a copy of "An Act to amend the Laws relating to Roman Catholic Separate Schools in Upper Canada." For the provisions of this Act, I am not entitled to either praise or blame, as I never saw it until it appeared in print, after its introduction into the Legislature. I have ever believed and maintained that the provisions of the law as previously existing in respect to separate schools, were conceived in a kindly feeling, and were equitable and liberal. I am so persuaded still. But these provisions of the law having been complained of by Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, the new Separate School act is the result—an act, which, while it maintains our public school system inviolate and even places it upon a firmer and broader foundation than

(See left hand column, 6th page.)

* The authorised text-books are those published under the direction of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland—prepared by practical and experienced Masters.—See L. C. Cir., No. 48.

LOWER CANADA ACT.—Continued.

the funds of the Corporation of such City, from whatever source such moneys are derived, (all Laws or Rules or By-laws of the Council of such Corporation to the contrary notwithstanding,) pay to the respective Boards of School Commissioners of such City, and in proportion to the population of the religious persuasion represented by such Boards respectively, a sum equal in amount to that apportioned to such City out of the Common School Fund, to be employed by and for the purposes of the Common Schools, under the direction of such Boards of School Commissioners respectively, &c.

*9th Victoria, Chap. 27.**Text Books—Religious Instruction.*

XXI. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the School Commissioners in each Municipality—

Fifthly. (45) To regulate the course of study to be followed in each School,—to provide that no other books be used in the Schools under their jurisdiction but those approved and recommended by the Board of Examiners hereinafter established,—and to establish general rules for the management of the Schools, and to communicate them in writing to the respective Teachers,—to fix the time of the annual public examination, and to attend at the same: (46) Provided that the Curé, Priest, or officiating Minister shall have the exclusive right of selecting the books having reference to religion or morals, for the use of the Schools for children of his own religious faith.

*12th Victoria, Chap. 50.**Eligibility of Clergymen as Trustees.*

VI. And be it enacted, (47) That the Clergymen of all religious denominations in each School Municipality shall be eligible to be such Commissioners without any property qualification; any law or statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

CIRCULAR OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR L. C.

Dated the 15th June, 1846

(48) In those localities where a difference of religious belief exists, it is of importance that the books employed for the purpose of inculcating principles of morality and religion, should contain nothing having relation to any faith in particular. I conceive it, therefore, my duty to recommend the adoption for the use of schools of the books which, under similar circumstances are employed in the schools in Ireland. These are certainly according to general belief the best books that could be used in the Common Schools for the purpose of imparting to children of different religions, the requisite degree of instruction.

(49) It must be understood that dissentient schools are only entitled to a share of the school grant proportionate to the number of children between the ages of 5 and 16 years, who have attended to school and belonged to dissentient inhabitants residing in the Scholastic Municipality. See 18th clause of the Act 12 Vic. ch. 50.

(50) Dissentient Schools should in all cases governed by three Trustees named for the purpose by the dissentient inhabitants, as was done under the last Act. There ought to be but one body of Trustees for all the dissentient schools in each scholastic Municipality.

(See right hand column, 6th page.)