

## BILL.

An Act to amend chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes for Lower Canada, respecting public education.

Whereas the law in relation to public instruction does not give authority to School Commissioners or Trustees to take possession of lands selected by them as sites for school houses, in the event of the proprietors refusing to sell and convey them; and whereas it is expedient to remedy an inconvenience calculated to place obstacles in the way of education in Lower Canada; Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. The sixty-fourth section of chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes for Lower Canada, intituled: "An Act respecting Provincial aid for superior Education, and Normal and Common Schools," is hereby amended by adding thereto the following paragraphs:

"9. If after having selected a vacant lot of land as a site for a school house, the Commissioners or Trustees cannot make terms with the proprietor in respect of the amount of purchase money, or in case the proprietor refuses to deliver possession of the land required within the eight days next after application in writing shall have been made to him by the said Commissioners and Trustees, then the matter shall be settled by arbitrators in the manner following: The Commissioners or Trustees shall appoint an arbitrator, and the owner of the land shall appoint another within thirty days after the said delay, and the two arbitrators shall conjointly appoint a third, within the eight days next after their appointment, and in case of disagreement between the said two arbitrators, or in case the said Commissioners or Trustees shall not appoint their respective arbitrators within the said thirty days, the said arbitrator or arbitrators, or the third arbitrator, as the case may be, shall be appointed by the judge of the Superior Court for the district, upon the application of one of the parties, and in the absence of the Judge by the Prothonotary of the said court; and such arbitrators shall have all the powers necessary for the summoning, hearing, swearing, and examination of the witnesses; and the award of the arbitrators or of a majority of them, shall be final, and shall designate the party who shall be liable for the costs of the arbitration."

10. Before proceeding, each of the said arbitrators shall take the following oath before a Justice of the Peace for the district:

"I, A. B., having been appointed an arbitrator in the matter of the School Commissioners (or Trustees) of versus C. D. do make oath that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office to the best of my judgment and capacity; So help me God."

Sworn before me the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the District of

11. The said arbitrators shall within one month after their appointment, make their award, and serve a copy thereof on the said School Commissioners or Trustees, and on all the other parties interested.

12. Upon payment or tender of the compensation awarded to the parties entitled to receive the same, the award shall give power to the said Commissioners or Trustees to take immediate possession of the land, and to exercise the rights, or to do the thing for which the compensation has been awarded.

13. If any person shall offer any resistance or opposition to the proceedings of the Commissioners or Trustees, any Judge of the Superior Court may, upon satisfactory proof that the conditions by this Act required have been fulfilled, issue his warrant addressed to any Sheriff or Bailiff, or other proper person, to place the Commissioners or Trustees in possession, and to put a stop to such opposition or resistance, all which such Sheriff, Bailiff, or other person shall be bound to do, taking with him such assistance as may be necessary.

14. Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall have the effect of authorizing possession to be taken of any property held by a *fabrique*, church, body, corporation or association for religious or scholastic purposes.

2. This Act shall be construed as forming to all intents and purposes a part of chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes for Lower Canada.

### Distribution of Prizes and Diplomas in the Normal Schools.

The annual public distribution of prizes and diplomas to the teachers in training at the McGill Normal School took place on

the 30th June, as mentioned in our last number, to which we refer our readers for a full account of the proceedings on the occasion.

The prizes and diplomas were formally distributed in the Laval Normal School on the 3rd and 4th July. In the Girls' Department of this institution, the ceremony took place at the Boarding-School of the Ursulines, Quebec, in presence of a distinguished auditory. The pupils of this section underwent a brilliant examination, which embraced mythology, geography, book-keeping, history of Canada, history of France and literature. Several literary compositions of great merit were then read, followed by recitations and a dialogue on the difficulties and pleasures of study. Vocal and instrumental music formed part of the programme and completed the proceedings.

After the distribution of prizes and diplomas, thanks were returned by Miss Julie Noël, the winner of the prize founded by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Rev. Mr. Cazeau, G. V., who presided on the occasion, then acknowledged in an eloquent address the merits of the professors and pupils.

The examinations of the male teachers in training at the Normal School were held the next day in the Castle of St. Lewis, where the school had been at first established, but subsequently removed to another building to make room for the public offices, on the seat of government being transferred to Quebec. M. Gauthier, the French Consul General, was present. The pupils were examined on mechanics, agriculture, natural philosophy and book-keeping. Several literary compositions were read, and well selected pieces of music, vocal and instrumental, executed at proper intervals during the ceremony. The distribution of diplomas for model and elementary schools having been made, a valedictory address was delivered by Mr. Rouleau, and the Rev. Mr. Langevin closed the proceedings with a very touching exhortation.

The award of prizes and diplomas at the Jacques Cartier Normal School, Montreal, took place on the 12th July, under the presidency of the Superintendent of Education. Among those present were Rev. Mr. Bayle, Superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Rev. Mr. Campion and many other priests of this Institution, Rev. Mr. Thibault, *Curé* of Longueuil, several members of the orders of the Jesuits and Oblats, a number of the ecclesiastics of the Colleges of Joliette and St. Thérèse, and many distinguished members of the clergy and laity.

The distribution of prizes among the young pupils of the Jacques Cartier Model School was preceded by a discourse on *Domestic Education*, a subject ably treated by Mr. Boudrias, who has discharged the duties of French teacher in this school since the foundation of the Normal School, of which he is also associate professor. He attributed the greatest difficulties which teachers have to surmount in the schools, to the bad habits which children are too often suffered to acquire when at home, to the absence of proper care and discipline, and to a growing disposition on the part of parents, in this country, to neglect the enforcing of proper submission to their authority.

The diplomas granted in the Normal School were, for academics 2, model schools 6, elementary schools 4.

Selections were sung by the united choirs of both schools, with great effect, under the direction of Professor Brauneis, who presided at the piano.