

the provisions of the new Act, there is no apportionment to counties according to population, nor any distinction between senior and junior Grammar Schools; but, as the seventh section of the Act expresses it: "The apportionment, payable half yearly to the Grammar Schools, shall be made to each school conducted according to law, upon the basis of the daily average attendance at such Grammar School of pupils in the Programme of Studies prescribed according to law for Grammar Schools; such attendance shall be certified by the headmaster and trustees, and verified by the inspector of Grammar Schools."

5. During more than ten years, I have employed my best exertions to get the great principle of our Common School system applied to that of the Grammar Schools, namely: the principle of each municipality providing a certain proportionate sum, as a condition of sharing in the school fund provided by the Legislature. This is the vital principle of our Common School system, and is the main element of its wonderful success. The intelligent liberality of the municipalities has far exceeded the requirements of the law in relation to our upwards of four thousand Common Schools; I doubt not a like liberality and intelligence will soon be shown in regard to our one hundred Grammar Schools.

6. Relying upon the liberal co-operation of the county, city, town, and village municipalities, and to facilitate, as far as possible, the labours of the trustees, I will make and pay the next year's apportionment of the Grammar School fund, in aid of the Grammar Schools which are conducted according to law, without waiting for the proportionate sums required by law to be provided from local sources; but if these sums, in any instances, are not provided in the course of the year, it will then be my duty to withhold, in all such cases, the payment of any further sums from the school fund, until the deficiency is made up.

7. With the additional co-operation and means which the new Act provides in behalf of Grammar Schools, and the practical Programme of Studies prescribed, it remains for the trustees to employ their earnest and patriotic exertions to make the Grammar Schools, under the Divine blessing, fulfil their noble mission, and prove an honour, as well as a general blessing, to the country.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

TORONTO, 1st December, 1865.

## 2. CIRCULAR TO WARDENS OF COUNTIES IN UPPER CANADA.

### ON THE NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACT.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose you herewith, for the information of the County Council over which you preside, a copy of the new Grammar School Improvement Act; by the provisions of which, it will be seen that cities, with one exception, are made counties for Grammar School purposes; and the County Council will hereafter appoint one-half of the members of the Board of Trustees of any Grammar School situated in any Town or incorporated Village, and the municipal Council of such Town or Village will appoint the other half of the members of such Board. In regard to Grammar Schools not situated in any Town or Incorporated Village, the new act makes no change in the mode of appointing Trustees; the appointment of these trustees still rests with the County Council.

2. The great object of this Act is to make Grammar Schools what they were intended to be, and what they ought to be,—namely: Intermediate Schools, between the Common Schools and the University Colleges—to prepare these pupils for matriculation into the University, who intend to acquire an University education—to impart to other pupils the higher branches of an English education, including the elements of French, for those who intend to engage in the various pursuits of life without entering the University—and also to impart a special prepara-

tory education to those who intend to become Surgeons and Civil Engineers.

3. It is upon this broad basis, and with these comprehensive and important objects in view that the programme of studies and regulations have been revised; and on these grounds they present strong claims to the liberal support of the counties and municipalities where they are established—not, in any way, being the rivals of the Common Schools, nor permitted to do Common School work, but to perform a higher educational work of the greatest importance to the advancement of the country, which can neither be done by the Common School on the one hand, nor by the College on the other.

4. The progress, institutions, professions and employments of our country, together with the influx of many well educated persons from other countries, render these intermediate Schools an indispensable necessity, if our native youth are to maintain their proper position in society, and if our country is to maintain its rank in comparison with other educating and progressive countries. But the Grammar Schools cannot accomplish the objects of their establishment without further aid in addition to that of the small Fund provided by the Legislature. No such schools ever did fulfil their mission by mere fees of pupils and a small Legislative grant, without liberal local support, unless they had a large independent endowment—which is not the case with the Grammar Schools of Upper Canada. The County Councils have, of late years, created a large number of Grammar Schools; and the authors of any off-spring ought not to leave it to languish and starve for want of support.

5. It appears from the returns of 1864, that to 49 of the 101 Grammar Schools some municipal aid had been granted last year; but the other 52 Grammar Schools have had no other resources than fees of pupils and the apportionment from the Grammar School Fund. It is not, therefore, surprising that so many of the Grammar Schools are little better than Common Schools, and some of them, both in accommodations and efficiency, inferior to the Common Schools in the same Town or Village. This ought not so to be. All reasonable men must admit that it is better to discontinue the Grammar Schools where there are no materials for their operations and support, and concentrate joint legislative and municipal appropriations upon a smaller number of good Grammar Schools than to dissipate these funds upon a large number of poor and needless schools. In order to remedy this evil to some extent, it has been provided that no Grammar School shall be entitled to share in the Grammar School Fund which has not proper accommodations provided for it, and an average attendance of at least ten pupils in one of the languages, for teaching which that Fund was originally created; and the *Sixth* section of the new Grammar School Improvement Act provides that "No Grammar School shall be entitled to share in the Grammar School Fund, unless a sum shall be provided from local sources, exclusive of fees, equal at least to half the sum apportioned to such school, and expended for the same purposes as said Fund"—namely, for the salaries of Teachers.

6. The Act does not say in what way the proportionate sum from "local sources" shall be provided; but I would suggest that, as the County Council appoints one half of the Board of Trustees for the management of each Grammar School, the County Council should provide one half of the sum required by law to be provided from "local sources" as a condition of sharing in the Fund. But a higher and broader ground for this suggestion is, not only that the Grammar School is a national school and the country has a special interest in it, as has the country at large as evinced by the Legislative provisions for Grammar Schools, but a large number of rate payers in the Country do not send their children to the Common Schools, but to the Grammar and other Schools; yet their properties are largely assessed for providing Common School premises and for supporting Common Schools. It is but equitable, therefore, to these ratepayers—apart from other considerations—that a small portion, at least, of the school assessments in counties should go to support the one or more County Grammar Schools. It is to be recollected that the county school assessment forms but a small part of the assessments levied (by Municipal Coun-