

The present provision made by Law is:—

1st. District Schools now merged into Grammar Schools, by the Act of last session and there can under no circumstances be more than four, the provision for their endowment seems also to be inoperative, so that one only in each District can be said to be established, and this from provincial funds, under provincial statutes.

2nd. Common Schools also paid from the funds of the province under a permanent statute and annual grants extending that provision.

The system of common schools although in some instances abused by the employment of improper persons, indeed, sometimes aliens, as teachers yet on the whole I think highly beneficial: perhaps were the system of parochial schools as established in Scotland with such modifications as would be necessary under the different circumstances of this Province engrafted upon the common school system, it might be found to work well. Permit me after these general remarks to refer to the given queries contained in the letter you have honored me with.

1st. Their number is considerable in the several Districts but there is this incongruity in their establishment—namely, as they increase in number, the assistance from the public funds diminishes in this way, the grant to each district is in a lump, and divided amongst them (according to number) by the several Boards of Education, consequently the greater the number, the less is received by each, the working of which, it must at once be seen, tends to retard rather than promote such establishment in the rural parts of the province.

2nd. If the system is continued, I am of opinion the position of the schools may safely be left as now, in the discretion of the inhabitants.

3rd. The Masters ought to be subject to examination before a competent Board, both as to Literature and fitness to instruct the youth of the country, as also moral habits and political principles. The Board of Education in the District of Gore, I have reason to believe, exercises this power, although I am not aware that it is given them by law notwithstanding it seems so necessary. Whether the Board of Education is in all cases qualified to exercise this power may be questioned, and it may be an important matter for the Board, of which you are Secretary, to decide this point.

4th. The remuneration of teachers at present does not hold out that encouragement to persons properly qualified to undertake the Education of youth, certainly not to make it the business of their lives, and hence has arisen in a great measure the employment of itinerant persons of whom the country knows nothing, rather than their children should remain ignorant of even the rudiments of education.

5th. The charges to the pupils is generally 10s. per quarter of a year and he must be a popular teacher indeed if his income exceeds £50 per annum, out of which he must board himself and, if he has a family support them also.

6th. The course of study and Books used is under the superintendence of the Board of Education, as returns are periodically made to them detailing those matters.

7th. This is answered in a former part of these observations.

Even the Grammar Schools so endowed as to enable them to prepare pupils for a higher seminary of learning, it would be most advantageous to