

and Statistical Returns in Upper Canada, since 1841, could furnish. A copy of this paper was sent to each of the Municipal Councils, and to the Editor of each Newspaper in Upper Canada, besides many others, and it attracted considerable attention, as well it might—shewing the comparative and deplorably backward state of Elementary Instruction in Upper Canada, at the same time that it exhibited the progress of Common Schools during the last few years. This Table of Statistics is given in the Appendix to this Report, marked No. 2.

2. In the next place, I addressed a Circular to the Municipal Councils, explaining the leading principles on which the present School Law is founded; the principal duties of District Councils, and the advantages arising from adopting *property* as the basis of supporting Common Schools. The District of Huron has nobly led the way in the application of this principle. The Circular referred to is marked No. 3, in the Appendix.

3. I then proposed a Book of Forms and Regulations for making Reports, and conducting all necessary proceedings under the Statute, including the forms for District Councils, for District Superintendants, School Trustees and Teachers, together with remarks on their several duties, and the organization and government of Common Schools, in regard to religious instruction, &c. &c. &c. (See Appendix No. 4.)

In order that errors might be avoided in holding the First Annual School Meetings under the Act, I had triplicate forms of *Trustees Notices* of such meetings printed (with requisite directions on each,) and sent them with the Book of Forms to the several District Superintendants, for distribution to the Trustees of each School Section. No instance has come to my knowledge of any irregularity having been complained of in regard to the calling and constitution of a School Meeting where these printed blank notices were received—presenting a gratifying contrast to the disputes which have arisen from such irregularity in former years.

4. In transmitting the printed Statutes, Forms, and Regulations, I addressed a Circular to District Superintendants, remarking on some points, essential to the improvement of our Common Schools—the importance of introducing an uniform Series of *Text Books* in the Schools—the special objects of observation and inquiry