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PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN LOWER CANADA, FOR THE YEAR 1860.

The Hon. Mr. Chauveau's report for 1860, on the state of public education in Lower Canada, has just been distributed. It contains a mass of valuable statistics, and many interesting facts relating to the progress of the schools within the Eastern part of the Province during the past year. Of these we purpose taking a cursory review.

The report sets out with the cheering statement that the advancement made, considering the importance of the subjects which had presented themselves to the Council, had been as great as could be hoped for.

On the selection of text-books, Mr. Chauveau remarks as follows: "On the important question of the selection of the books to be exclusively used in the schools; in view of the fact that there are certain series of works which, notwithstanding the care taken in compiling and editing them, cannot, owing to the difficulties presented by the subjects of which they treat, be adopted indiscriminately for Catholic children and for Protestant children, the Council decided that the Committee entrusted with the examination might report that certain books have been examined by the whole Committee and received the approval of the whole Committee; and that others have been approved of by the Catholic members of the Committee only, or by the Protestant members only; and that notice of the fact should be given at the same time with the approval of the Council. It was due to parents and to school authorities, that this dis-

inction should be made for their guidance; and the means adopted by the Council for the attainment of that object, was the only one which the law left at its disposal. The Council proceeded at once to examine a large number of works which had been submitted to it, and approved of some of them."

The sum of \$800, given by the Prince of Wales for distribution as prizes, had been placed out at interest, and the proceeds appropriated to the purpose for which they were designed. The Normal Schools were eagerly sought out by the youth of the community; but a regret is expressed that on account of the inefficiency of the public grants to the Laval and Jacques Cartier schools, a considerable increase had been required in the tuition fees. In this connection a complaint is lodged against the School Municipalities, the Superintendent remarking that were they "to do their duty, by striving to secure good teachers, and offering them suitable salaries, there would be no difficulty in increasing the number of pupils." Such an increase was much needed—the number being insufficient to meet the demand. There had, however, been a considerable addition to the roll of school teachers trained in the three schools—Jacques Cartier, McGill, and Laval—as was shown by a comparison of the returns of 1857 and 1860 respectively; those in the former year being 70, and in the latter, 228. The Normal School diplomas granted in the same institutions were: 4 for academies, 134 for model schools, and 181 for elementary schools. The number of normal school pupils being but 212, it would thus be seen that many of them obtained three diplomas for successive courses.

Leaving these details, we have to deal with broader and more general facts. And one of the first and most interesting is that presented by figures, showing the operations of the voluntary system in Lower Canada. The following results are obtained from the tabular form setting forth the sums levied for primary education in the different School Municipalities:—Assessments or voluntary contributions to equal amount of grant, \$114,424. Comparing this item with the returns of 1859, there is indicated a falling off of \$1,368. On the other hand, the amount of assessment levied over and above the amount required to equal the grant, and of special assessments for the payment of debts, was \$123,939, against \$109,151 in 1859—an increase of \$14,788. From these statistics, the important fact is deduced that the amount raised by voluntary contributions in Lower Canada during 1860, more than doubled the Government grant of \$116,000. Before this gratifying result could be gained, much