

RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly to His Excellency, the Governor General, praying His Excellency to cause the proper Officer to lay before the House, copy of the Statistical Report of the Superintendent of Education for the year 1843.

By Command,

D. DALY,
Secretary.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
30th January, 1846.

(Copy.)

STATISTICAL REPORT on ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, showing the number of Schools in operation in Canada East, which have a claim to the Government Allocation for 1843, which Report and the following Table are the result of two Tables presented to His EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, by the Superintendent, on the 20th April and the 5th July, 1844.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

An Act passed by the Provincial Parliament, (18th September, 1841,) for the establishment and maintenance of Elementary Schools in the Province of Canada, provides a sum of £50,000 Currency, to be divided, in the first place, between the two sections of the Province, Canada East and Canada West; and secondly, to be distributed annually amongst the Municipal Districts in each section, in proportion to the number of children over five and under sixteen years of age, that shall appear, by the census then last taken of the Province, to be resident within each District, respectively.

The same School Act further provides that the Council of each Municipal District shall be a Board of Education, the duties of which, as such, shall be to divide the several Parishes and Townships, within their Municipal District, into School Districts, and to furnish to the Superintendent of Education, a report of such division, and likewise an Annual Report of the Schools in operation; also, to apportion and distribute to each of the Municipal Districts its share of the School Fund in proportion to the number of children residing therein as aforesaid; and to cause to be assessed on the inhabitants of each School District, sums of money sufficient to equal their respective share of the School Grant.

The same Act further provides for the election of School Commissioners in every Parish and Township, to take the charge and direction of the school established in each of them, and placed under their control, according to the same Act, and whose principal duties are to examine and appoint the school teachers; to prescribe to them the books to be used, and the regulations to be followed in their schools; to visit the said schools several times during the period of instruction, and to make a faithful report of the whole, once a year, to the Wardens of the Municipal Districts.

By the same Act, it is further provided, that to entitle any school to the advantages of the Government allocation, the following conditions must have been complied with, viz:

- 1st. The school shall have been placed under the control of School Commissioners.
- 2nd. The school shall have been open nine months during the year, and shall have been daily attended by at least fifteen children.
- 3rd. The Reports required shall have been regularly made to this Office.
- 4th. A sum of money equal to the amount of the Government allocation to each District respectively, shall have been paid by the inhabitants towards the support of the Elementary Schools placed under the control of the School Commissioners.

However, by the sixth clause of the Act, it is provided that, good and sufficient reasons being produced, the Superintendent of Education, in the exercise of his discretionary power, may, in certain cases, release the School Districts from the necessity of compliance with the above conditions.

The Municipal Councils, it is to be regretted, have not generally co-operated, in the lower section of the Province, towards the establishment and maintenance of Common Schools in their Districts, and the schools have not all been kept for the period of nine months in the



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