

rather freely. As the moneys now collected are insufficient to afford the teachers such salaries as in justice they are entitled to receive, a remedy for the evil complained of could only be found in an increase of the Government allowance. The Superintendent in his last Report, as in all his previous reports, strongly recommends such an increase.

As we have already said, many schools where small salaries are paid, and in which only a small proportion of pupils have passed to other branches than reading,—may still be schools well conducted and well deserving of public support, yet there is no doubt that owing to the penuriousness of a great many school commissioners, incompetent teachers are often employed. If, through an increase of the grant, higher salaries were paid and the services of a greater number of well qualified teachers secured, we believe the average number of years during which pupils attend the schools would be very considerably augmented, as also the aggregate number attending yearly.

(From the *Montreal Gazette*.)

### Education in Lower Canada.

#### I.

We published some weeks ago a table showing some of the results of the effort made to extend education in Lower Canada, taken from Dr. Chauveau's last report. Since that time we have given the report farther perusal and consideration. It is worthy of the attention of all—and who is not interested in the advancement of the people in education. Since 1853, the number of educational institutions have increased from 2,352 to 3,264, or over 34 per cent. The pupils taught have increased from 108,284 to 172,155, or almost 59 per cent; while the local contributions have risen from \$165,848 to \$503,659, or over 300 per cent. The increase in the population of Eastern Canada during that time must have been about 25 per cent., possibly a little over. In all these respects, then, there has been a faster development of the appliances for educating the youth of the country and the number receiving education. Yet there seems to be a very marked disparity between the increased work done and the amount expended to produce it. At the same rate as prevailed in 1853 the 3,264 schools of 1860 should have been maintained at a local cost of \$230,000; yet we have \$503,659, or more than twice as much money to account for. This is not, however, a thing to be complained of. The average cost to the ratepayers of a school under the former scale was a mere fraction over \$70. It is surely worth the \$150 or \$160 it now costs, or it is worth nothing at all. Nay it is a healthy and hopeful sign to see how the people are marking their increased appreciation of education year by year by taxing themselves more and more heavily. The Provincial grant last year was only \$116,000, against this large sum of nearly \$501,000—local contributions standing therefore for more than four times as much as the Provincial. Of this about \$254,000 was by local rates, the remainder by school fees. It cannot after this be said with truth that the people of Lower Canada are indifferent to education. Nearly \$121,000 of this sum was the product of an enhanced rate, which no law made it necessary for them to impose upon themselves, a purely self-imposed burden. There was an increase of \$14,000 or \$15,000 over the previous year in this enhanced rate, the total increase of contributions being only \$5,423, certainly not in proportion to increase of population. Out of the 26 Inspection districts into which the province is divided, 14 have raised rates exceeding twice the amount the Government grant; all have raised more than the amount equal to the grant, necessary to entitle them to receive it. Those which show a very large excess are Mr. Bourgeois' (including the counties of Drummond and Arthabaska, and the Catholic Schools of Chester, Tingwick, Kingsley and Durham,) where \$5,649 was raised again, a grant of \$1,493; Mr. Hubbard's (including the counties of Stanstead, Compton, Richmond and Wolfe, and the Protestant Schools of the above Townships,) showing local rates of \$17,250 against a grant of \$5,008; Dr. Parmelee's (consisting

of the District of Bedford,) which raised \$14,951 against a grant of \$5,046; Mr. Bruce's (comprising the County of Huntingdon, parts of Chateaugay and Argenteuil, and the Protestant population of this city,) raising \$10,693 against a grant of \$4,448. Mr. Valade's (including Jacques Cartier, Hochelaga, Vaudreuil and Soulanges, and the Catholic population of this city,) raising \$17,431 against a grant of \$7,153; and Mr. McCord's, (comprising the counties of Ottawa and Pontiac,) which raised \$9,029 to add to its grant of \$3,234. These amounts are exclusive of the sums raised by monthly fees and the assessments to build school-houses. The sums raised by way of fees were largest in the districts containing the city populations, where the grants made by the Municipal authorities out of the taxes are comparatively insignificant. Thus in Mr. Bardsy's district, including the Catholic population of Quebec, the fees amounted to no less than \$53,375, (\$49,000 being raised in the city schools) the grant and assessment only amounting together to \$26,054 (or less than one half); in Mr. Pies's, comprising only the Quebec Protestant schools, the fees were \$19,000, the grant and assessments being only \$1,927, or little more than a tenth! Again the fees paid by the Protestants of Montreal amounted to \$38,400 against a grant and assessment of \$1,128, or less than a thirtieth! The Catholics received \$2,680 out of grant and rates, against \$70,000 monthly fees, or a little over one to twenty-four! These four sums amount together to \$176,400, or more than two-thirds of the total, (\$249,717) raised in L. Canada by monthly fees! Surely there is here some strange anomaly. The monthly fees are ordered to be levied on all children of an age to attend school, and two-thirds of the children of the province are not in its great cities. Possibly, the rates here are very much higher, or possibly all tuition fees paid voluntarily to teachers, are in these cases only brought into account.

#### II.

In noticing the liberal sums raised by the rate-payers of the Province to promote education, we remarked that the average cost to them of each school was now \$150 to \$160—\$151 is the exact proportion. Adding the Government grant to this, it is raised to about \$190 per school. When the expenses, such as commissions of Secretary-Treasurers, come out of this, and it is farther reduced by the subdivisions occurring whenever more than one teacher is employed, we fancy \$170 or \$175 per annum may be regarded as the stipend of the teacher. Instead of being the average, this should be the minimum. One could not get a good field hand to do ordinary drudgery for less. It is not \$15 per month. Even female teachers, of whom so many are employed because they can afford to work so cheaply, are surely not less worth than this. We know they are not if they are fit to teach school at all. And that brings us naturally to the few returns of teachers' salaries given us—of the salaries of some of the elite of the profession.

We are informed by Dr. Chauveau that the Printing Committee of the House of Assembly have decided to print the appendices to his reports *in extenso* only once in three years selected. It is just in the Census year that all the figures possible, collected by these public departments, would serve a most useful public purpose, and help to a better understanding of the progress we have made. As it is, we can make out that the numbers attending school last year bore the proportion of about one in six, or six and a half of the whole population of Lower Canada, but we have not the detailed information which would enable us to see how different districts rise or fall above or below this average. It were better to have these details only once in five years, so that one of them should always be the census year.

We have, however, the reports of the principals of the three Normal Schools given at considerable length, one (Laval) describing the course of study at great length, and giving the names of all the pupil teachers passed since the school was founded, whence they came and whither they have gone, interesting personal details, doubtless, but when space was so economised the results in figures might have served for this year. Another (that of the Jacques Cartier) gives us a syllabus of his course of lectures upon the art of teaching occupying a page and a half of the blue book. To this report also is annexed the list of pupils who have received diplomas, where teaching, &c. The Principal of the McGill School errs at all in too great brevity. Either from lack of the materials or for the sake of brevity, he has not furnished an item of useful information which the others have given; we allude to the salaries of the teachers sent out and now employed. The Jacques Cartier School has returns of 40 of its pupils—all male teachers. Of these no less than 13 are working for salaries below \$200; 10 for salaries between \$200 and \$300; 8 for \$300 to \$350; 5 for \$350 to \$400; 3 for \$400 and over, and one has become a professor in the St. Anne's