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RETIREMENT OF DR. RYERSON.

The rumor has again become current that Dr. Ryerson proposes resigning his position as Chief Superintendent of Education. We understand the Rev. Chief has for several years been anxious to get relief from the arduous labors of his Department, that he might be able to devote his undivided time to the preparation of a history of the U. E. Loy-ists in Canada—a work which his long residence in this country, and his intimate knowledge of the whole question, particularly qualify him for performing.

Dr. Ryerson's connection with the educational system of Ontario cannot be otherwise regarded than as one of the most important elements in its history. When he first took charge of our Common Schools they were comparatively few in number, without uniformity in study or text book. They were but the nebulous matter of a school system. The country being sparsely settled, and large contributions being constantly made to its population by immigration, it was no easy task to prepare a system of education that would meet the wants of a new community, without those

encumbrances which pertained to the systems adopted by older countries. By an extended and careful examination of the systems prevailing in Europe and the United States, and by judiciously adapting them to the peculiar wants of a new country, he was able to give us much of what was best in them all, without either unnecessary encumbrance or routine. And by offering an inducement to Trustees by providing that the Department would help those who helped themselves, he was able to establish schools in many districts, where the circumstances of the people would not permit of sustaining single-handed the entire expense. Another feature of school maintenance which was never lost sight of, but which was not finally adopted until 1871, was FREE SCHOOLS. Although a rate-bill was for many years chargeable under law, yet the ratepayers were always afforded the opportunity at the Annual School Meeting, of deciding whether their school should be free or not. So popular did the free school system become, that when the government came to consider the abolition of rate bill