

ized, if the Governor in Council upon like report shall so ordain, but not otherwise, in two divisions, Roman Catholic and Protestant respectively; in which case each division shall separately perform the duties devolving on them.

5 It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council upon like report from time to time to modify, as occasion may require, the detail of duties imposed on Boards of Examiners and on the Secretaries of such Boards, by the fifth section of the Act passed in the ninth year of Her Majesty's reign, entitled, *An Act to repeal certain enactments therein mentioned, and to make better provision for Elementary Instruction in Lower Canada*; and every modification so made of such duties shall be binding on all parties for whom the same may have been made, as though expressly embodied in this Act.

9. The copyright of any book, map, chart, musical composition, or other publication whatsoever, (whether original, or wholly or in part compiled,) which may hereafter be published for the use of Schools under the direction of the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada, may be acquired and held by the said Council; and all profits to result from such copyrights shall enure to the benefit of the Lower Canada Superior Education Income Fund

### Report of the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada for 1858.

Translated from the French by the translators to the Legislative Assembly.

Extracts from the Reports of the Inspectors of Schools.

Extracts from the Reports of Mr. Inspector DORVAL.

If the saying that the master makes the school is true, as in this country the commissioners select and pay the teachers, it would be still more just to say "As are the commissioners, so are the schools." You must have observed in my former reports, that all the schools in the same municipality generally resemble each other; and this circumstance strikes me forcibly in my visits as Inspector. Wherever I have occasion to praise the schools, it is because the commissioners have chosen good teachers of both sexes, have paid them liberally and regularly, have watched them diligently, have visited their schools with zeal and intelligence, have caused all contributions to be paid punctually, have had the courage to sue all dilatory payers, and in the choice of a secretary treasurer have laid aside all favor, all intrigue and meanness, all party-spirit, to consider only the probity, qualifications, and activity which are indispensable in this important agent of Public Education.

Unfortunately the number of zealous and active commissioners is not yet as large as could be desired, and it is to be regretted that the Government did not attend to your suggestion of exacting a certain amount of education as a condition of eligibility for this public office. It is to be feared, that the absence of this condition will long set a bad example, and strongly counteract the efforts made to impress upon the fathers of families all the importance of Education.

Notwithstanding, however, the great number of weak and unqualified administrators still existing, I have again this year, in the total number of schools, in my District, to report a progress which will prove that the force of the impulse given is not at all abated.

The proportion of pupils entered on the school rolls to the whole population of this district, allowing for the probable increase in the population since the last census, is 1 to 7, and the number attending regularly is 1 to 10.

I have classified, as to their efficiency, the schools of my district as follows:—Excellent 37, good 48, middling 55, ill kept 16.

In short the most perceptible results that have been obtained appear to me to be: 1st. More uniformity in the books used in teaching; 2nd. More uniformity in the branches taught; 3rd. More connection between these branches and the ordinary wants of the children attending the schools, and consequently the suppression of several branches which, in my opinion, ought only to form part of the educational course in the superior schools; 4th. Better arrangements; maps and black boards being less rare than formerly; 5th. A little more regularity in the minutes of the proceedings of the school-commissioners and trustees; 6th. A slight increase in the salaries of teachers in several municipalities; 7th. More assiduity on the part of the pupils in attending school.

I cannot, however, conclude without saying a word concerning an

evil which is generally felt in my district; I speak of the too great facility with which the diploma of a school-master, and above all that of a mistress, is obtained. The evil caused by this facility in the school and in the management of affairs by the school-commissioners is incalculable; it is still more so with regard to the body of teachers generally; for this ease in obtaining diplomas causes an unjust competition between teachers of a very different capacity although furnished with the same diploma, which makes their engagement to be a mere affair of contract with the lowest bidder, particularly in some municipalities where the main object is cheap education.

I will now give a rapid sketch of the state of affairs in each municipality.

*Lachenaie.*—The two schools in this municipality are well furnished and provided with fine maps, black boards, registers, &c. The teacher of district No. 1, Mr. Trépanier, who has succeeded the Mlles. Filiatrault, receives a salary of £65. Mr. Bourgong, teacher of section No. 2, receives only £36. The commissioners deserve to be commended for the manner in which they act up to my suggestions and to those of the Department.

*St. Henry of Mascouche.*—Among the pupils of the industrial college, 16 in the highest classes appeared to me to have made some progress. The other schools of the commissioners have well qualified masters and mistresses. The schools of the Mlles. Beauchamp and Mayé, and that of Mr. Garraty, deserve honorable mention; unfortunately, the school-houses are not all well built, and seldom present the necessary accommodations in their internal arrangements; neither are there any maps, and as there was no register of the school visits, I could not distribute any prizes. However, I expect much from the intelligence and zeal of the new commissioners. The money matters are well managed, except that they have spared some rich defaulters who ought rather to show an example of punctuality in paying. It was by mistake that Mr. Garraty's school was mentioned as dissentient in my last report: it is under the control of the commissioners; almost all the pupils, however, belong to religious denominations different from theirs. The college receives £75 from the commissioners, the convent £40, and Mr. Garraty £30.

*St. Lin.*—The schools are well kept, the pupils are making progress, the school-houses are well furnished but they are destitute of maps. The dissentients have now only one school; that which they had formerly at Wesleyville is now only an independent school. Their affairs might be conducted with more punctuality and regularity. It is the same thing with the commissioners to whom very large arrears are due.

*St. Calixte of Kilkenny.*—This municipality is divided into four sections. During the last two years the commissioners have built two pretty school-houses which reflect the greatest credit on the inhabitants as contrasted with their poverty. The children in this municipality are also very attentive to school and cannot fail to make progress. The school-houses are well furnished, kept in repair, and supplied with tables. It is intended to purchase geographical maps. Only one school mistress is furnished with a diploma, the others, all things considered, appeared to me to be well enough qualified. The commissioners are in debt to these teachers. I hope better things for the future under the direction of Mr. le curé Desmarais.

*St. Roch de l'Achigan.*—There is a Superior-Primary school kept here by the Brethren of St. Viator. The pupils have made some progress, but they require furniture, geographical maps, &c. The Commissioners rarely visit the schools, and have not provided them with registers for the visits. A fine building intended as a school convent has been erected.

*Be-au-Pads and Be-aux-Castors.*—Mr. Marchessault has succeeded Miss Grinsell; the affairs of this municipality were admirably well conducted by the late Curé Mr. Filiatrault.

*Be St. Ignace.*—The southern portion of the Island is poor. The Commissioners have not established the payment of monthly fees; they ought to do so if only to oblige parents to send their children to the school, which is very well conducted, but which is destitute of maps, black boards, &c. This municipality is also under great obligations to the late Curé M. Filiatrault.

*St. Alphonse de Kildare.*—The difficulties existing in this municipality are in the course of being arranged. The Commissioners however, are far from showing zeal of activity; they do not appear to understand their affairs properly. Mr. Rogan after an interruption of several months has been succeeded in district No. 1 by a mistress who teaches both languages. The school in district No.