

The Secretary-Treasurer, Alexandre Cormier, Esquire, has given the security required by law.

The division of this School Municipality into two is a great benefit, and one of which I cannot but approve. Before this division was effected, it was difficult and often impossible to bring the Commissioners together when it was necessary, on account of the bad state of the roads, the distance, &c.

I give a succinct statement respecting each school in these Islands.

1. *Aubert*. The school is taught by Mr. Briand, who has no diploma, but who is tolerably successful in the execution of his duties. This school is attended by 50 pupils.

2. *Bassin*. There is, in this section, a school kept by a Mr. Morin, a Frenchman. Under this teacher, who is competent, the 50 pupils attending the school do not make the progress which I expected. Mr. Morin thinks too much of singing and too little of arithmetic. My recommendations on this subject have produced no effect.

3. *Anse-à-la-Cabane*. This section has a school which is pretty well kept by a Mr. Dupreuil, a Frenchman, and which is attended by 49 children, who have made tolerable progress. The ratepayers have given proof of their zeal; they have bought a school-house, and have paid the purchase money.

4. *Etang-du-Nord*. There is no school in this section. We have here indifference and even ill-will. There is no hope of a school being established here soon.

5. *Cap-aux-Meules*. There is a school here taught by Mr. Borne. The progress is unsatisfactory, owing partly to the irregularity with which the school is attended. The ratepayers in this section are poor.

6. *Havre-aux-Maisons*. Mr. Catellier keeps a good school in this section; it is attended by 60 children. Mr. Catellier is the only teacher in my district who holds a diploma, and it is greatly to be wished that the other schools in the islands were as skillfully managed as his, and that the progress made was satisfactory.

The great obstacle to progress here is the fact that parents require the assistance of their children during the fishing season, of which they must necessarily take advantage, as otherwise they would certainly be exposed to utter misery. This obstacle will not be so great when the benefits of education are better understood, for on this point several of the ratepayers hold fallacious opinions. To remedy this evil as far as lay in my power, I have always given the highest prize to the pupil who has been most regular in his attendance at school. These prizes do great good everywhere.

#### Extract from the Report of Mr Inspector BÉCHARD.

##### DISTRICT OF GASPE.

There has been progress this year as compared with preceding years, which will be shown by the following summary:

Number of municipalities in 1859, 12; 1860, 17; and in the present year, 18; increase, 6.

School houses in 1859, 21; same number in 1860, and one more this year.

Schools under control: 18 in 1859; 19 in 1860; and 21 in 1861; increase, 3.

There were only 456 pupils attending the schools in 1859; in the following year there were 731, and in the present year 905, so that in two years the number of pupils has been doubled, less seven.

There has also been progress in the matter taught.

The finances show a still greater increase. The amount paid by the ratepayers in 1859 was \$1134 73; in 1860, \$1495, and this year \$3476: an increase of \$2342 in two years.

As I stated last year, a new era seems to have dawned upon this remote corner of the country, and before ten years have passed it is to be hoped that there will be in Gaspé nothing to be desired in the matter of elementary schools, as compared with those of the parishes of Quebec and Montreal. To favor this result, I recommend none but competent teachers, and especially those who have been instructed at the Normal School. Already several have been in my district for some years; every year two or three come to increase the number. I make every exertion to help and favor them in every possible way, and to cause them to forget that hundreds of miles intervene between them and their native parishes. I should add that these teachers have been most favorably received by the Reverend Curés and the ratepayers generally. This, I hope, will, induce others to come; they will not find here the fine country

which lies along the Upper St. Lawrence, but they will find a hospitable population, strict in morals and generous in heart.

The chief obstacle, which threatened to close all the schools,—the opposition to assessment—daily diminishes, thanks to the suits instituted against the opponents, which have fortunately been successful.

The other obstacles are the same as those mentioned in my first report.

The following is a summary review of the municipalities in this inspection district.

1. *Newport*. The only school here is kept by Mr. Adolphe Maguan, a pupil-teacher of the Jacques Cartier Normal School. This young teacher is able, and the pupils have made rapid progress under him. Thanks to Mr. Hamon, the chairman, the school affairs are better managed than formerly. The ratepayers are poor, but pay their assessment willingly, nevertheless. Total number of pupils, 62.

2. *Pabos*. This municipality has two schools. That at Grand Pabos is still under the able direction of Mr. J. Foucault, a pupil of the Jacques Cartier Normal School. His school is one of the best in all Gaspé.

The other school is taught by Mr. Louis Ruel, who holds an elementary school diploma. There has been very little progress made, consequent in part upon the irregularity with which the school is attended.

The financial affairs are well managed by the Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Rémon.

3. *Grande Rivière*. There are two schools in this parish. That situated on the east side of the river is still conducted by Mr. Léandre Dagneault, an able and energetic teacher, whose pupils have made satisfactory progress.

Until the month of July the school on the west side of the river was taught by Mr. Thomas Tremblay. By his retirement this section loses a very competent and zealous teacher, who has rendered important services during the six years he has been engaged in teaching here. He has been lately replaced by Mr. Clovis Desforges, a pupil of the Jacques Cartier Normal School.

I have nothing but praise to bestow upon the Commissioners and particularly their Chairman, the Reverend L. Desjardins, for the regular and able manner in which the affairs of the corporation are conducted. The assessments are paid with great punctuality, and the accounts are well kept.

4. *Percé*. There has been progress in this place, where the opposition to the assessment was so bitter. The Commissioners, regardless of menaces, remained firm and were not afraid to sue those ratepayers who from obstinacy refused to pay. The Chairman, the Reverend E. Guilmet, more particularly did not hesitate, in the most difficult circumstances, to do his duty fearlessly.

The village school, conducted by Mr. Treflé Côté, a pupil of the Laval Normal School, has produced good results. With regard to those at Irishtown, Cap Désespoir and Petite Rivière, it would be better to close them. Two other schools have been opened lately; one at Anse-à-beau-fils, and the other at Cap Blanc, both taught by female teachers.

There is not enough system in the way in which the Secretary keeps the accounts.

5. *Isle Bonaventure*. There is a school on this island; it is kept by a female teacher who has no diploma, and whose pupils have made tolerable progress. The ratepayers and the Commissioners do very little to favor the instruction of their children, and are besides opposed to the imposition of the rates.

6. *Malbaie*. In consequence of the opposition to the levying of the rates, all the schools in this municipality are closed; without them, schools cannot be established upon a permanent basis, especially with such a population as there is here.

7. *St. George de la Malbaie*. The inhabitants of this little municipality are imbued with a better spirit, and make real sacrifices in favor of their school, which is at present under the management of an able teacher, Mr. Moise Hurtubise, a pupil of the Jacques Cartier Normal School.

8. *Douglas*. In this place there is opposition to the system of assessment, which it will be impossible, for several years, to eradicate. The schools are closed, with the exception of one which has been lately opened.

9. *York and Haldimand (Banc de Sable)*. The schools here have been closed for several years, but one, kept by a teacher who has no diploma, has at last been opened. This step in the right direction is due to the Reverend Mr. Ker, minister, who has shown great zeal and has used every effort to induce his parishioners to shake off their indifference to everything connected with schools.