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## PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOL INAUGURATION.

SPEECHES delivered at the *Soiree*, held, Wednesday 1st October, 1856, for the INAUGURATION of the Charlottetown NORMAL and MODEL SCHOOL, Prince Edward Island.

The Meeting having been duly constituted by His Excellency Sir DOMINICK DALY (so long known in Canada) taking the Chair, the *especial* business of the day was entered upon by His Excellency's addressing the Meeting in the following terms :

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the duty which I am called upon this day to discharge, is one which is, in every way, agreeable to me. No circumstance could have occurred, with respect to the interests of this Colony, to afford me higher gratification, than our meeting here, this day, to inaugurate, with due observances, the Model and Normal School of this city. Prince Edward Island is distinguished—highly distinguished—among the British Provinces of North America, for having taken the lead in establishing,—for the benefit of the rising generation, and, indeed for the benefit of all who call, or shall yet call the Island their home,—a system of Free Education: and now we are met to inaugurate an Institution for the training of teachers, by a system, the value of which is now recognised and acknowledged by almost every civilized country in the world. It is quite clear

that this Institution,—the leading object of which is to train young persons for the proper discharge of the duties of teachers,—should have preceded the establishment of Free Schools in the Colony; because then, from the creation of the latter, there would have been a supply of *trained* teachers to conduct them. Good of any kind, although late, is, however, better late than never; and this day in which we inaugurate the first Normal School in Prince Edward Island, may justly be regarded as the commencement of an auspicious era, whence to date, in future, the origin of many blessings, and the commencement of a perpetuated course of improvement and prosperity to the people of this Colony. It belongs not to me to expound the principles or to enter into the details of the System we are met to inaugurate; for in fact I am not able to do so; but this inability on my part is of small moment, as the gentlemen who are at the head of the Institution will, I am sure, leave nothing obscure concerning it which can be made manifest by words." Cheers.

The Honble. Colonel SWABEY proposed the first Resolution as follows :

"1st *Resolved*, That the system of Free Education now in successful operation in this Colony, under which one-sixth of the whole population is receiving instruction,—and of which the Normal School is a necessary and vital element, is deserving of the support of all interested in the welfare of the rising generation.

"The Resolution consists of two parts. The first speaks of what we have done. It states the gratifying fact, that, in consequence of the extensive and liberal provision, made by the Legislature, for the diffusion of learning and knowledge throughout the Colony, one sixth of the population is receiving a sound and useful education. Is not this a proud position for this little Colony to have attained to? Examine our Island statistics, and you will see that all our youth who are capable of being benefitted by school instruction, are now enjoying its advantages; and every family in the country experiences the unspeakable blessing of having education brought to its very doors. But the Resolution might have gone further. Besides stating that one sixth of our population is now under tuition in our Free District Schools, it might also have stated the fact, unparalleled in any other country, that *one third* of our revenue is devoted to the encouragement of education. Tell me, if you can, what State can rival this enlightened liberality. None can at all compare with it, except Prussia. In Belgium, in Swit-