

There was also great difficulty in procuring teachers sufficiently qualified to teach. This difficulty is still felt.

3. I consider that our primary schools, well directed, kept by well qualified teachers, and watched over by inspectors, who know and understand how to perform their duties; all this added to a Model School established in each parish; in fine, that the present School Laws, well understood and carefully carried into operation, would give us a sufficient system of instruction.

J. B. DESROSIERS.

*Extract from the Memorandum addressed to the Committee by J. Crémazie, Esq., (of Quebec) in answer to their questions.*

The report of the Superintendent for the last six months of 1851, establishes the existence, in Lower Canada, of 1991 schools. These 1991 schools necessarily suppose 1991 male or female teachers. Since the first of July, 1852, all the teachers should have obtained a certificate of capacity, after having at first undergone an examination before a Board of examiners. Out of this number of 1991 teachers, 472 male teachers, only, have been admitted to teach by the Board of Examiners, and then we must deduct from this number 23 female teachers who are on the list of those licensed to teach, furnished by the Superintendent. This leaves, then, 1519 schools confided either to female teachers who have not undergone the required examination, or to female teachers whom the law, through the gallantry of the Legislature, has exempted from this examination.

In any system of instruction whatsoever, the efficacious action of that system depends on the qualification of the teachers. As I do not know any thing of the teachers out of the District of Quebec, I shall confine myself to that District. Are all the teachers of the District of Quebec equally qualified to discharge the important duties confided to them? I do not think so; and I will say why I do not. According to the report of Dr. Meilleur, there are in this District 524 schools under the direction of male and female teachers. What is the number of the one and of the other? I cannot say. But it is an ascertained fact that in this same District, 115 teachers have received certificates of capacity from the Board of Examiners. With very few exceptions, these teachers presented themselves before the Board a little before the first of July, 1852, and a great number after that time. As a member of that Board, I can state that the examiners found themselves in a very embarrassing position with regard to these teachers. It was necessary either to conform strictly to the requirements of the law and refuse the majority of candidates the requisite certificate of capacity, and in that case close a great number of schools, or else shew more indulgence and admit as qualified persons who were really not so to the extent intended by the law. A great responsibility, in the one and the other alternative, attached to the Board who thought, under the circumstances in which the District was placed, that it was better to allow the order of things existing under the authority of the law for eight years, to remain as it was, than suddenly to overthrow everything by disqualifying the teachers who were exercising their functions with the sanction of the school authorities.

There are then remaining 409 schools, confided to male teachers unprovided with certificates of capacity, or to female teachers. This number is enormous, as it forms about the four-fifths of the whole of the schools of the District. Although there are a certain number of teachers not yet approved of by the Board of Examiners, it is to be presumed that nearly three-fourths of these 409 schools are under the direction of women or of young girls whom the School Commissioners generally prefer to male teachers, because *they cost less*. It is not necessary for