

mined to proceed to Egypt in the vain hope that a warm climate might benefit him. At Malta, finding his strength failing he determined to retrace his steps homewards, and die surrounded by his family and home comforts. Mr. Rector, you know the sad sequel! That home he never reached! He died at sea on the 10th of December, and we are here this day to mourn his removal."

Dr. Larue, Professor in the University, followed, and in the course of his remarks paid a high tribute of praise to the first rector of the University. He touched upon historical ground, reviewing the question of university education in general and that of the relations of the Laval University with other colleges, and declared himself in favor of a higher standard and more severity in testing the qualifications of candidates for those degrees and diplomas which entitle the holders to regard and distinction; adding that the liberal professions were already overcrowded, and unless something were done to exclude the less competent, the standard must inevitably fall still lower. He concluded by eulogizing the character and private virtues of the late rector, and resumed his seat amid loud and general applause.

The Rector then invited the auditory to attend the inauguration of the monument to the first rector in the Chapel of the Seminary, where an imposing ceremony took place.

To Mr. Chas. Taché, who took the initiative in opening a subscription, much credit is due for the success of the enterprise,

### District of St. Francis Teachers' Convention.

This Convention met at Sherbrooke on the 27th of December, when the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Inspector Hubbard, President; Professor Graham, of St. Francis College, Richmond, and Dr. Nichols, of the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Vice-Presidents; Mr. Marsh, Sherbrooke, Secretary. After some remarks from Mr. Marsh and Mr. Graham, it was proposed and resolved, that teachers be invited to send, prior to each meeting, specimens of writing and mapping showing the progress made by the pupils under their charge respectively. Mr. Marsh enquired of Mr. Hubbard if it were true that more progress in calligraphy was made in the French than in the English schools of the district, to which the latter replied in the affirmative. Mr. Sanborn then delivered a lecture on the relations of public instruction to the State—the principle of uniformity in schools, school-books, and the method of teaching being fully elucidated. He also insisted on the necessity of making teaching a profession and not merely a make-shift only resorted to till something better could be procured. He expressed the opinion that school commissioners and the Department of Education ought to give the preference to teachers who adopted their profession in good faith, and not to those who only followed it temporarily. Many teachers were, he added, students of law or medicine while engaged in keeping schools; but it was very difficult to combine successfully all these functions, as all demanded close study and application.

### Extracts from the Reports of Inspectors of Schools, for 1859 and 1860.

#### Extracts from Inspector HUME's Report.

In reporting upon the progress of Education in my District of Inspection during the past year (1860-61) it affords me much pleasure to be enabled to state that considerable improvement has been made during that period in many of the municipalities. The number of children who have attended school will be found to be much greater than in any preceding year, the increase as compared with 1860, being upwards of 500; and there has also been an increase in the amount of local contributions. There are also a greater number of qualified teachers than formerly, though in some municipalities, in consequence of the difficulty the commissioners have experienced in finding teachers with diplomas, they were obliged to employ those who had none. There are five female teachers in the district with diplomas from the Normal Schools three of whom have the Model school diploma. The gradual introduction of teachers from these schools cannot fail to be attended with beneficial effects in those municipalities where they are employed; and as a general desire is felt to procure their services, I have no doubt that in a few years one or more will be found in nearly every municipality.

Although a general improvement has taken place in many of the municipalities of this district, some still remain in which there

is room for much more. I cannot say that there exists anything which can be called *opposition* to the school law, but there is, in some places, indifference, and, with many people, a carelessness in not sending their children regularly to school.

I am happy to say that the prejudices which existed some years ago in many of the municipalities against assessment for school purposes, are gradually diminishing; one municipality after another is adopting the system of assessment, and I trust that ere long there will not be a single one where it will not be in force.

I will now proceed to give a brief statement of the state of education in the different municipalities of this district of inspection.

#### COUNTY OF BEAUCE.

1. *St. Victor de Tring*.—Some improvement was made in this municipality during the last year, more especially in the principal school which is now conducted by a good teacher; it is numerously attended, and some of the pupils have made satisfactory progress. There are four schools in operation; tolerably well attended, and conducted by teachers who manifest much zeal in the discharge of their duties. The inhabitants of this municipality have always been well disposed towards education.

2. *St. Ephrem de Tring*.—In this municipality there are three schools in operation, and though none of the pupils are much advanced, some progress has been made. In consequence of a temporary interruption to the schools last year, the assessments were not regularly paid, and the commissioners are considerably indebted. This arises from the circumstance that since St. Ephrem became a separate municipality three new school-houses had to be built. The inhabitants are extremely poor, but manifest a laudable desire to have their children educated.

3. *Forsyth*.—There were two schools in operation at the time of my last visit; a few of the pupils had made very good progress, but in general the attendance appeared to have been very irregular. Much credit is due to the Rev. Mr. Bérubé, the curé of the parish, and to some of the inhabitants for their exertions in favor of the schools.

4. *Lambton*.—I am happy to say that in this township there is a very great improvement. Two well qualified teachers have been engaged, to whom liberal salaries are paid; and the pupils under them have made satisfactory progress. School affairs are in a prosperous state in this municipality.

5. *Aylmer*.—There are three schools here, in two of which the attendance has been irregular. The inhabitants are, however, well disposed in favor of education, and considering their means, few municipalities have contributed more liberally than they have done. There is a great amount of arrears of assessment due; yet this arises not from the unwillingness of the people to pay, but from the extreme scarcity of money prevailing in nearly all new settlements.

#### COUNTY OF DORCHESTER.

6. *West Frampton*.—In this municipality there are two good schools under the control of the commissioners, very numerously attended and at which very satisfactory progress has been made. These two schools, however, are insufficient, and many of the inhabitants evidently feel no interest in education, being unwilling to pay for the services of a qualified teacher. One school has been closed on this account for the last year. A dissentient school has replaced that which was formerly in operation. A new school-house has been built, and a qualified teacher engaged.

7. *East Frampton*.—Two schools are established here (one a dissentient), and others will probably soon be opened, as three more schools at least, will be required in this municipality. Although many of the inhabitants do not take much interest in school affairs, a building has been purchased for the school under the commissioners.

8. *Standon*.—Only one school in operation in this township, which is not very numerously attended. The teacher, though attentive, is almost superannuated and not much progress has been made. A competent teacher cannot be secured for want of means.

9. *Cranbourne*.—No school was open on my last visit, but the determination was expressed to open one or more as soon as teachers could be procured.