

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Paid by Government.....	\$145,280.17
Paid by Counties.....	91,477.14
Raised by various sections.....	262,912.86
Total 1867.....	\$499,670.17
“ 1866.....	349,811.00
Increase.....	\$149,859.17

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS.

THE SCHOOL LAW.

The Property of Non-Residents.—There is at present no provision in the School Law by which the property held by a Non-Resident of the County can be assessed for Local School purposes. It would be only just to make such property liable to local assessment in the section in which it is situate.

Poll-Tax.—There is one point in connection with School Assessment to which I would call attention. In my report of 1864, I recommended that a portion of the Local School Assessment should be levied as a poll-tax. Such a law has since been passed for the City of Halifax, and the Annual School Meeting at Dartmouth has by unanimous vote twice solicited me to press this subject upon the attention of the Legislature. I have learned the views of very many persons upon the subject and find great unanimity in favour of raising a portion of the Local Assessment by poll-tax. Such a mode would tend, on the whole, to equalize the burden of support, by reaching many who ought in all fairness to bear a share, (and who, I believe, would as a general rule, most cheerfully do so), yet having no rateable property, are under the present system, exempt from all share in the cost of educating the community in which they live. It will be evident, moreover, that if such a mode of levying the Local Assessment were adopted by the Legislature, it ought to remove all grounds for complaint which are now entertained by the more aged men throughout the Province. I would respectfully suggest that the Legislature consider the wisdom of enacting that a given proportion of the sectional school tax shall be levied as a poll-tax on all adult male residents.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

It has been the experience of every country supporting a public or national system of Education that a thorough school inspection is necessary to a wise and vigorous administration of that system. For upwards of three years, the schools in each county of Nova Scotia have been under the special supervision of an Inspector. Through these officers the Superintendent has sought to awaken the interest of every portion of the Province, and render operative the educational enactments of the Legislature. I need not say that this work has required much vigilance and unwearied labour. The school accommodation of the Province has been improved both in extent and kind a hundred per cent, and the attendance of children at school has been doubled. Equal if not greater improvement has been made in the general equipment of the schools with respect to books, maps, and other necessary apparatus; while not less advancement has been made in all matters pertaining to the internal management of the schools. Of all the means placed by the Legislature under the control of the Superintendent for securing these great results, none have been so direct and powerful as the appointment of inspectors. The duties of these officers have been multifarious. They have pressed upon the people the just claims of Education, and labored to awaken a favourable response to the provisions of the law. They have instructed the people what steps are necessary to the enjoyment of the highest benefits contemplated by the enactment, what should be the nature and extent of their school accommodation, and how their school affairs might be properly conducted. They have assisted the local Trustees in obtaining suitable teachers for their respective sections; and when local difficulties have arisen they have been directly instrumental in allaying irritations and in settling disputes. The great advancement made both in the accuracy and fullness of educational statistics has been secured through the agency of these officers, and time only is required to perfect by their instrumentality a thoroughly reliable annual exhibit of the educational affairs of the Province. By periodical inspection of the work performed in the school-room, they have already done much towards elevating the character of the instruction given, and in securing well-ordered schools. In short, from the experience of the past few years I am confident that it would be utterly impossible to secure and maintain a discriminating and productive application of our Educational means either provincial or local, material or mental, without an efficient system of inspection. It may be quite true that the foregoing remarks are not applicable in

an equal degree to the services rendered by each Inspector, but wherever there has been lack of faithful inspectorial service, the educational interests of the county have manifestly suffered.

A considerable portion of the labour which the Inspectors have hitherto performed has been incident to the establishment of schools and their general management under new conditions. In a majority of the Counties this work may be regarded as nearly accomplished. An educational sentiment has been developed among the inhabitants of the various sections, of a strength sufficient, it is believed, to render the provisions of the law operative in the sustaining of public schools. It now becomes specially necessary that the work of the Inspectors should be brought to bear more directly on the every day work of the schools. The Government and people are appropriating liberally of the means at their command for the maintenance of schools, and it is of the last importance that the methods of instruction and management which obtain in these schools, and the technical knowledge imparted in them, be subjected periodically to the careful review of competent men, and that the results be reported both to the local trustees and the government. I am of the opinion that it would be highly promotive of our Educational interests if the number of the inspectors was now gradually reduced to ten or eleven, possibly to nine. I say *gradually*, for the reduction should be effected only as the different portions of the country are prepared for it, and as thoroughly qualified men could be secured. If this suggestion should approve itself to the Legislature, I would recommend that the Council of Public Instruction be empowered to form territorial Divisions, from time to time, each of a size sufficient to engage the constant employment of an Inspector. This plan would not require any increased expenditure, while by offering constant employment, it would always be possible to secure the services of thoroughly qualified men.

Canadian Publishers and English Authors.

In the *Montreal Daily News* of the 12th Feb., we find an article, reproduced from its own columns, as well as a letter from Mr. John Lovell, (Printer and Publisher, Montreal,) to the Hon. John Rose, on the eve of his departure for England, together with the opinions of the Press of the different sections of the Dominion, on Canadian Publishing,—from which we make a few extracts.

The *Daily News* says:

Under existing circumstances the Canadian publisher is prohibited from publishing English copyright works under penalty of fine and imprisonment, while the American can sell them in this country on payment of 12½ per cent. customs duty. Literary men in Canada are comparatively idle in consequence. There is little or no encouragement given to them, and literary career instead of being as it is in England, a remunerative pursuit, is in this country, in too many instances, only another name for gradual starvation. Still there is abundant evidence to prove that the people of Canada are not by any means deficient in literary genius and literary taste. The fact that at the publishing establishment in which the *DAILY NEWS* is printed, upwards of 150 persons are employed, shows that even under the present unfavorable regulations there is some encouragement given to literary efforts by the Canadian public. How much greater that encouragement would be were the present restrictions removed, it is almost impossible to say, but it is easy enough to understand that if the publishers of Canada were relieved from those grievances of which with just cause they now complain, they would not only be able to publish all the English works needed by the Canadian public, but would be able to export books to the United States and sell to the Americans at a lower rate than that at which they can at present be supplied by their own publishers. If our publishers were allowed to print English copyright works on payment of 12½ per cent. to the author, (a payment which would most willingly be made), English authors would derive a considerable income from the sale of their works to the Canadian public, for which at present they receive little or no compensation.

But how great would be the benefit which the people of this country would derive. The literary men of Canada would obtain remunerative employment, hundreds of printers, pressmen, canvassing agents, book deliverers, &c., would at once find plenty of work to do, books would be cheaper, knowledge of all kinds would be placed within the reach of all classes of the community, and thus the Dominion and the Empire would be rendered stronger and more prosperous.