

sterling per hundred acres; and Municipal Councils are restrained by law from incurring any debt which, with all other charges, would raise the taxation to above two per cent. of the assessed value of the property of the municipality. This system has infused a fine spirit of self-reliance in the people, and excited in them a lively interest in all public questions; and from the ranks of the Municipal Councillors, who receive a practical training in the smaller arena, are, to a great extent, recruited our members of Parliament.

EDUCATION.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Public School system of Ontario was originally introduced in 1816, but may be said to have been reconstructed, remodelled, and placed on its present efficient footing by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, the head of the Ontario Education Department. Its principal features were borrowed from New York and Massachusetts, Ireland and Germany, all so modified and blended as to suit the temper and condition of the country, and differing in several particulars from other public school systems on this continent.

In order to work this system, each township is divided into school sections of a suitable extent for one school, and in each of these sections three trustees are elected to manage its school affairs. The ratepayers may, however, elect a township Board of Trustees instead of Section Trustees. In cities, towns, and villages, Boards of Trustees, elected by the ratepayers, supervise the management and expenditure. The same general dispositions apply to the Roman Catholic Separate Schools.

The public schools are all free.

HIGH SCHOOLS.

The High Schools are the next most important feature in the Ontario School System, being the intermediate link between the Public School and the University. They were established in 1807. The whole number of schools reported in 1869 was 101, with 6608 pupils. In 1872, 104; pupils 7968.