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EXTRACTS FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORMAL, MODEL, GRAMMAR, AND COMMON SCHOOLS OF UPPER CANADA, FOR THE YEAR 1862.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount Monck, Governor General, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

As required by law, I present my Report on the condition of the Normal, Model, Grammar, and Common Schools of Upper Canada for the year 1862.

FULNESS OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION.—ABRIDGMENT OF DETAILS.

All the statistical tables have been prepared with the care and variety of detail which have characterized the statistical tables of my Annual Reports for previous years; but with a view to economy in printing, and, as has been recommended by the Printing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, I have omitted from this Report several of these tables and greatly abridged others.

PRACTICE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN GIVING STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

In the Governmental Annual School Reports for Great Britain and Ireland, the statistical tables are numerous and very minute in their details; and the British Parliament and public demand the fullest information possible in regard to everything connected with the working of school systems to which they so largely contribute. In the State of Massachusetts also, where the school system has been long established, the statistical tables occupy a larger space than they have in my Annual Reports, while nearly twice as many and more than twice as voluminous reports have been annually printed

and circulated by statute than of the school reports for Upper Canada, though the number of schools and the number of pupils is greater in Upper Canada than in Massachusetts.

It is there, as well as in Great Britain, considered the best economy to prepare and circulate widely the most complete and detailed Annual Reports respecting the character and operations of their public school systems. I observe also that the last Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of New York is more voluminous and much more comprehensive and minute in its statistics than in former years.

NECESSITY FOR FULL INFORMATION ON EVERY BRANCH OF OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

It is under the influence of the same views that I have for years collected and presented in my Annual Reports the most varied and detailed statistics respecting the character and working of every part of our public school system, believing that such facts are the best answers to objections to it, and the knowledge of them one of the best means of strengthening and extending its operations.

It has been objected that comparatively few read the statistical tables when prepared and published. This is true; but it is also true that they are examined and discussed in each locality to which they refer, and it is the judgment of the comparatively few who take the pains to examine them that determines the opinion of the public in regard to the system itself. This is equally true of statistics on all subjects. They furnish the materials for careful legislators and public writers, intelligent municipal councillors and thoughtful individuals in every neighbourhood to form their judgment and direct their conduct in regard to the value and working of any system established in the country and supported by the public.

Nevertheless, I retain in this respect the most important statistical tables, and shall partially supply the omission of the others by giving a general summary of them in this textual part of my Report.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

I. TABLE A.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF COMMON SCHOOL MONIES.

Receipts.

1. The amount apportioned and paid by this Department from the Legislative Grant for salaries of teachers in 1862 was \$159,120, being an increase of \$2,088 as compared with the preceding year.