

ceive before 30th May last, and even those Reports only relate to the County of Bonaventure. Mr. Jobin died without having transmitted to me his Reports for the last six months of 1853, and Mr. Consigny has not been able to furnish me with any Report for at least a year.

In order to procure statistics of the Districts of which these Inspectors have the supervision, I have generally been compelled to have recourse to the Reports of the School Commissioners of the Municipalities, and this has been productive of a great increase of labour and delay, without producing as satisfactory a result.

The case is the same with respect to the District of the Ottawa, the Report from the Inspector of which reached me only on the 3rd instant, without the statistical table required. It is partly the same with respect to the County of Huntingdon, the Inspector of which, Mr. Lanctot, did not furnish me before the 3rd instant, with the amount of local contributions for schools, and that when my Report and the statistical table annexed were completed.

It was at that time impossible for me to make the alterations therein which I could have wished to make, one copy of my table had been then transmitted to you, and another was in the press.

With respect to the district under the Inspection of Mr. Lanctot, the amount of local contributions appears to be at least one thousand pounds, on my table in the column shewing the whole amount paid in by the rate-payers for the support of the primary schools in 1853.

I consider it my duty to give you this information, not to complain, not to accuse the Inspectors who are in default, but to enable you to judge of the facts and exonerate me, seeing that I can exercise no control over them.

As the copies of the Reports or the Inspectors and the extracts therefrom were not annexed to mine, until the latter was completed, I make reference to those Reports only when submitting copies thereof, and it was then only that I thought it my duty to make a few particular remarks suggested by my subsequent perusal of them in order to the better explanation of the whole bearing and application of these Reports, and to the deducting therefrom the conclusions which could flow from them.

Some of these reports being very long, as those of Mr. Bruce and Mr. Lanctot, I have considered it my duty to make only extracts therefrom, and the rather that these reports appear to me more speculative than practical. You will be able to judge of the length of their reports by that of the reports to the Committee of Education.

The whole humbly submitted.

I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed,) J. B. MEILLEUR, S.E.

Remarks.

The whole number of educational institutions of all kinds amounted, according to the last Reports of the School Inspectors for 1853, to 2277; in this year it reaches 2352, making a balance in favor of the present report of 75.

There is likewise a very satisfactory difference in the number of scholars who have attended these various institutions. From 97,582, the number in 1852, in 1853 it has reached 108,284, giving an increase of 10,702, in a population of 890,261 souls in Lower Canada.