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A young lady who is qualified to teach elementary classes in an English academy, and also embroidery, crochet and ornamental needlework, is desirous of obtaining a situation as an assistant teacher. address: Office of Education, Montreal.

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

MONTREAL, (LOWER CANADA) OCTOBER, 1858.

Report of the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada for 1856.

(Concluded from our last.)

Mr. Hume has charge of the county of Megantic, a section of the country which, on account of the bad state of the roads, of the poverty of new settlers, scattered over large tracts of land, offers more than ordinary obstacles to the progress of education. This accounts for some of the following remarks:

The statistical tables accompanying this Report will show, that the number of pupils attending school during the last year has been nearly the same as in the preceding year, it is true that there has been an increase in some of the municipalities, but there has also been a deficiency in others.

The great difficulty of procuring qualified teachers often keeps a school vacant that would otherwise be in operation. The establishment of superior schools in suitable and central places, will, I feel convinced, alone supply this deficiency. Qualified teachers must be raised up and educated amongst the people before the supply will equal the demand. For the support of these superior schools a special grant will be required. There can be no question but that the establishment of a model school in each of the populous municipalities as provided by law, would do much to give to many, an education superior to what can now be obtained in the common or elementary schools, but at the same time I very much fear that in some instances such a school could not be established without in a great measure sacrificing the elementary schools in the municipalities.

Very little progress has yet been made in some parts of my district towards the principle of adopting assessment in the place of voluntary contributions; in all the municipalities which are settled entirely with French Canadians, assessment prevails, while in all those settled by a population altogether or chiefly of British origin, voluntary contribution is adopted.

The extreme difficulty of collecting all the arrears of assessment due, is the great difficulty which lies in the path of school Commissioners. In many places they are slowly and sometimes reluctantly paid, especially when claimed from those who derived no

direct benefit from the schools in operation, there is always a reluctance felt to institute an action for the recovery of a few shillings when it is known that the costs will perhaps be equal to double the amount sued for, and even when an action has been instituted and judgment obtained, prompt payment does not always follow, because it is known that a still greater reluctance exists to cause an execution to issue.

Mr. Valade has charge of the catholic schools of the city of Montreal, and of all the schools of Jacques Cartier, Hochelaga, Vaudreuil and Soulanges. He speaks favorably of the state of things in his district, which we may add is generally born out by our personal experience, this district being one of those in which we have been able to visit schools, from time to time, without interfering with our official duties.

The schools in my district are directed with talent, and shew progress; the teachers are better remunerated, and the Commissioners are very zealous and act in perfect harmony with the rate-payers. It was most agreeable to see the number of parents and other interested inhabitants of each municipality, who accompanied me in my visits to the several school-houses. The Commissioners have become better convinced of the high mission committed to their charge and with scarcely any exception, gladly accompanied me in my examinations. With myself they have had a better opportunity of judging of the real and apparent progress made by the scholars than can be done in public examinations, where true talent is made to shine; but where also, perseverance and application are often overlooked. Though there are still many schools that remain comparatively stationary, yet a greater facility in reading is more general, hand-writing is more perfect, and in the more progressive schools geography and composition have become favorite subjects of study. However, I regret to add, that arithmetic and grammar, the two most essential branches, do not receive any where the attention which they should command. The management of the scholastic finances of our municipalities, I consider as conducted upon a very defective system, which is the cause every year of complaints and recrimination. This is due, sometimes to the ignorance and incapacity of the secretary-treasurer, at other times to his apathy and indifference, but often, I regret to say, to the want of integrity in this officer.

I have given particular attention to this portion of my duties, and if I cannot flatter myself that I shall see all these difficulties overcome, still I trust that for the future, such a strict watch will be kept by the Commissioners over the secretary-treasurer, that the accounts will be handed over with more regularity and clearness than heretofore. The district this year assigned to my inspection, has offered a greater number of good schools, of more able masters, better remunerated, a better set of School Commissioners, attentive and well disposed, in fact, in every respect a more happy concatenation of circumstances tending towards the wise and beneficent views of the Legislature on education, than I have ever had occasion to remark before.

The following facts are worthy of attention, we give them as stated in the concluding part of Mr. Valade's report.

I will confine myself to a few general remarks which will complete these statistics.

1. The children of, from five to seven years, and those from fourteen to sixteen, are comparatively in the proportion of 1 to 20.

2. The number of girls who attend school are about equal in number to that of boys.

3. The average attendance at school in summer is about the same, as in winter.

4. Very few catholic children attend protestant schools, and fewer protestants attend catholic schools.

5. The country district-schools are almost without exception under the direction of female teachers.

6. With the exception of four schools which are attended exclusively by children of British origin, all the others are attended by children of French-Canadian extraction.

7. All the schools within my district of inspection, are with very few exceptions, provided with black-boards, and even charts, which has been greatly the cause of the progress made in arithmetic and Geography.

Finally, Sir, I beg leave to reiterate the assurance of my own individual zeal in favor of Education, by which I am induced with-