

Historical and Other Papers and Documents

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF
ONTARIO.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, 1842-1861.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION ON THE COMMON SCHOOLS IN UPPER CANADA, 1842.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the annual Report on the actual state and condition of the Common Schools throughout Canada West, for the year 1842, as required by the Common School Act, 4th and 5th Victoria, Chapter 18.

Immediately upon issuing the Commission appointing a Superintendent of Education and two Assistants for Upper Canada, the apportionment of the Common School Fund was made. This apportionment was required to be made according to the then last Census of the Province, but as the Census of one Province was made in 1831 and the other in 1841, it was proposed to divide the £50,000 granted by the Legislature for the year 1842 between the two sections of the Province, in the proportion of three to two. This proposal having been acceded to by the Executive Government, £30,000 was set off for Canada East and the remaining £20,000 for Canada West.

This preliminary arrangement being completed, the £20,000 for Canada West was apportioned amongst the several Municipal Districts therein, and the City of Toronto, in proportion to the inhabitants in each under sixteen years of age.

The apportionment of the Common School fund amongst the several Municipal Districts and the City of Toronto, having been notified, and the result intimated to their respective Treasurers, at the same time a certified copy of the apportionment was sent to the Receiver-General.

The next thing to be done was the preparation of suitable forms of the several reports as required by the Statute. 1st. For the Quarterly Reports by the Visiting Commissioners to the Township Commissioners. 2nd. By the Township Commissioners to the District Council. By the District Council to the Chief Superintendent. These several forms were completed and sent to the District Clerks for distribution in June, 1842.

When engaged in the preparation of these forms, it was observed that the time appointed by the law for giving in the Annual Reports of the Township Commissioners to the Municipal Councils was after the several Councils, in November, 1842, would have finished their sittings, and therefore, without departing from the time mentioned in the Act for these reports, there would not have been a report from any District in Canada West for 1842, unless a special meeting of the Council had been called for that particular purpose.