

VI. That a quarterly report should be laid before the King's College Council, and that the schools should be visited by the Inspector General of Education at least once biennially.

Your Committee beg leave now to offer a few remarks on the present state of Common Schools, as prefatory to the plan which they have the honour of recommending for their improvement.

The first step, they conceive, towards their amelioration is to ameliorate the condition of the master. At present they have reason to believe that but too many teachers, receiving the allowance, are to be found unfit for this responsible station from their want of literary or moral qualifications.

The cause of this, your Committee believe to be, the inadequate remuneration which is held out to those who would embrace this occupation. In this country the wages of the working classes are so high, that few undertake the office of schoolmaster, except those who are unable to do anything else; and hence the important duties of education are often entrusted to incompetent and improper persons. The income of the schoolmaster should at least be equal to that of a common labourer. Until some provision of this nature is made, your Committee fear that it will be in vain to expect a sufficient supply of competent teachers.

Another serious defect in the present system is the want of a training school for teachers.—The advantages resulting from the establishment of such institutions are attested by experience, wherever they have been in operation. Your Committee are naturally led to observe next, the evils arising from the want of a uniform system of instruction. They consider the introduction of uniformity (both as to system adopted and books used) to be of the utmost importance.

They now beg leave to submit the outlines of a plan for the improvement of these schools. 1. In every township a model school should be established. The school house might be built (and the future repairs provided for) by a joint stock association, who should receive interest for the capital expended. To the school house should be attached a small portion of land (say two acres) for the use of the school master.—The school house should contain at least five rooms; 2 school rooms; one for the boys, another for the girls; a sitting and bed room for the master, and kitchen.

For each of these schools there should be a male and female teacher. It would be desirable if married persons could be found, willing to undertake, and competent to discharge these duties. The income of the teacher should arise from a fixed allowance, and also from the fees for tuition; the allowance should not be less than £15 per year for the male teacher, and £10 for the female. In addition to the teachers who should have the charge of the model school,

there should be one or more licensed to itinerate through the township beyond the sphere of the permanent school; say at any place more than two miles distant from it—these should be promoted as vacancies occur, to the charge of the model schools. Thus provision is made for one permanent and four occasional schools in each township; whilst the completion of the system contemplates the future elevation of the latter to permanent establishments on the same footing as the model.

Experience proves the advantages of having some charge, however small, for the education of even the humblest classes of society. Perhaps two dollars per quarter might be fixed as a sum, which is within the reach of almost all who could pay anything, and to meet the case of those who could not afford even this, a certain number should be entitled to free education, say one in five.

Your Committee have recommended that these fees should form one part of the income of the school master, the other being the fixed allowance. From this they would deduct one-quarter to be appropriated to the formation of a School Library. They subjoin an estimate of the probable income of the master of a model school.

Fixed allowance	£15
Assuming 80 as the average number of pupils in each School the whole amount of fees will be.....	60
From this deduct one-fifth for free pupils	12
	—
	48
From this deduct one-quarter for School Library.....	12
	—
	36
	—
	36
Average income	£51

The subjects of instruction should be, in addition to the ordinary branches of an English Education (spelling, reading and writing) the Holy Scriptures, Geography, History, Arithmetic, Mensuration, and Book-keeping; and in the Girls School, sewing and knitting. Great care should be taken in the selection of the books. Your Committee regret to find that editions published in the United States are much used throughout the Province; tinged by principles which however fit for dissemination under the form of Government which exists there, cannot be inculcated here without evil results. They therefore recommend that some means should be taken whereby the schools here may be provided with books at a cheap rate from Great Britain, or that a series of compilations or re-publications should be prepared and printed here, as the books appointed to be used in all the Schools throughout the Province.