

(Ontario's School System.)

# History of Education

IN THE

## PROVINCE.

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Facts Clearly Stated—The Past and the Present.

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From 1846 till 1876 the educational interests of Ontario were administered by the late Dr. Egerton Ryerson as Chief Superintendent, acting under the advice of a Council of Public Instruction appointed by the Crown. The Chief Superintendent and his Council were invested with authority to make regulations respecting the training and licensing of teachers, the authorization of text-books, the courses of study in Public and High Schools, and all other matters of a similar character. These regulations, so long as they were within the statutory powers of the Council of Public Instruction, had the force of law. Although universally admitted that Dr. Ryerson's administration of the Education Department was characterized by great ability, it was generally felt that a Department dealing with the expenditure of large school grants and other public funds and controlling interests of such a vital character as the education of half a million of children, should be brought more directly under the control of Parliament. In this view Dr. Ryerson himself shared, and as far back as 1868 suggested in a letter to the late Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron, then Provincial Secretary, that the office of Chief Superintendent should be abolished and the Education Department placed under a responsible Minister. That Mr. Cameron looked with favor on Dr. Ryerson's proposal is evident from the correspondence which passed between them. On the 30th of