

## Educational Intelligence.

### CANADA.

*Common Schools in the Talbot District—Extract from the Report of the Rev. William Clarke to the Council.*

Education Office, T. D., Simcoe, Feb. 6, 1849.

MR. WARDEN AND GENTLEMEN,—Since I have had the honor of receiving at your hands the office of Superintendent of Common Schools in this District, a period of five years has elapsed, during which I have felt it my duty to present you with an annual Report, embracing topics of interest connected with the educational department committed to my trust. During the past year there have been ninety Schools in operation, which, with some few exceptions, I have personally visited and examined; and, I am pleased to report, that there has been an advance on the previous year, both in the time during which they have been kept open, and also in the amount and diversity of instruction communicated; several branches of study having been introduced into many Schools, which were untaught before. Still, in some sections the cause has rather retrograded than otherwise, which may be attributed to the following reasons:—

1. Local differences and prejudices.
2. The deficiency and variety of School-books.
3. The parsimony of the people; and
4. The scarcity of well qualified and accredited Teachers.

Gentlemen, the latter will at once be apparent when I inform you that in your District there are not more than sixteen Teachers of the first class, and twenty-four of the second; while there are between fifty and sixty of the third or the least qualified class.

In such a state of things you will at once perceive that there must, of necessity, be some sections suffering all the consequences arising from insufficient Teaching. It is, however, important to observe that there is an addition of six first class Teachers, as compared with the previous year, and in those sections where there is cordial co-operation and a remunerating salary, Teachers of the first class are readily obtained; but where there is known antagonism and poor pay, such Teachers are of course unwilling to engage.

This may show that unreasonable expectations or hasty animadversions should not be indulged. Some of the third class Teachers receive certificates from School Visitors, any two of whom are authorized to give them. In some cases the employment of an insufficient Teacher is to be attributed to the Trustees themselves, who are anxious to keep the School open the prescribed time at the lowest price, while not unfrequently your Superintendent has to decide whether there shall be a modicum of instruction or none at all; whether there shall be half a loaf or no bread. Only let correct principles be diffused,—let the importance of education be pressed home upon the public mind, and then we may patiently but confidently hope that as first class Teachers are multiplied and settled among us, through the medium of that valuable institution, the *Provincial Normal School*, the character of our Schools will be gradually improved, and the best modes of imparting instruction will generally, if not universally, prevail.

*Grafton Common School Examination, Feb. 9th.*—There are upwards of fifty scholars attending this School, and it was most gratifying to find the great improvement they all exhibited in the various branches of learning taught them by their able and most indefatigable Teacher, Mr. Wm. WATSON, lately from the Normal School, Toronto, who has been only three months in charge. The new and much improved system of teaching introduced by him, has already produced the most admirable and beneficial results. The following is the Report of the Visitors:—

“Grafton, 9th February, 1849.

“We, whose names are subscribed, have this day examined the School taught by Mr. Wm. Watson, in School Section, No. 2. We were highly satisfied with the appearance of the School, and with the spirit and accuracy with which the Scholars went through the various exercises. Mr. Watson evidently devotes much attention to the instruction of the scholars committed to his care, and particularly to their intellectual improvement. They were examined in Geography, the elements of Mechanics, Natural History, Mathematics, and Grammar, besides the more common branches; and in all the exercises acquitted themselves with great credit. On the whole we consider Mr. Watson eminently qualified to act as an instructor of youth.

“WM. REID, *Min. Presby'n. Ch.* }  
 “AMES MOORE, *D. C.* } *Visitors.*  
 “JOHN STEELE, *J. P.* }

—[Cobourg Star.

*Governor-General's Visit to the College of St. Hyacinthe.*—His Excellency the GOVERNOR-GENERAL and Members of both Houses of the Legislature, having been invited to take part in the ceremony of opening the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, His Excellency availed him-

self of the opportunity of visiting the College at St. Hyacinthe. We learn from a Montreal paper that “immediately after arrival at St. Hyacinthe, the company visited the College, and were introduced to the Reverend Superior, after which they assembled in the large hall below, where an address was delivered to His Excellency by one of the Students, to which His Lordship made an appropriate reply in French, and requested that the rest of the day should be granted to the Students as a holiday.”

*Central Town School of London.*—The *Canadian Free Press*, in a lengthened article on the advantages of the projected scheme of the Town Council, London, C. W., to establish an efficient system of Common Schools in that Town, remarks as follows:—“Another recommendatory feature in the projected Seminary is, that the Salaries of the Teachers being included in the general taxes of the town will occasion scarcely a perceptible difference in them. The Trustees will be relieved of the disagreeable necessity of suing for Teachers' salaries; and the honorable feelings of sensitive children will be saved from the pain and the shame of being turned away from school for want of school fees.”

*House of Assembly in Committee on the Appropriation of 1,000,000 Acres of Land for the Support of Common Schools in Canada, Feb. 27.*—Hon. J. H. PRICE laid on the table a message from His Excellency, recommending an appropriation for the support of Common Schools. Mr. PRICE stated that the object of the motion he had to submit to the Committee was to set apart a sufficient extent of wild lands to produce £100,000 per annum. The lands thus set apart to a specific fund would not only be preserved for that most useful purpose, but would, according to all experience, sell for a much higher price than if sold by the Crown Lands Department. Thus the Clergy Reserve lands produced much more than other Crown lands, because the parties who purchased obtained credit, and could pay much more than otherwise. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving that it is expedient to raise a yearly sum of £100,000 on wild lands for the support of Common Schools.

MESSRS. ROBINSON, SHERWOOD (Toronto), WILSON, and Col. PRINCE, complimented the Ministry upon the introduction of this Bill; and the latter gentleman expressed his wish to see some provision made for the education of the colored population, which was very difficult to obtain at present, owing to the repugnance on the part of the white population to mix with them.

In answer to Mr. CAYLEY, Mr. PRICE stated that it was not the intention of the Government to propose any change in the present grant of £50,000 per annum, till the new fund derived from the land produced more than that sum. It was proposed to set apart one million of acres specifically for the purpose, and to invest the whole of the proceeds of the Crown lands for the same purpose.

Hon. H. J. BOUTON suggested, as a part of the plan, the setting apart a piece of land in each locality by way of a glebe for the school-house and school-master.

The resolution being carried, the Committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.—[Pilot.]

*Catalogue of the University of Victoria College, 1849.*—By the politeness of the Reverend Principal, we have been put in possession of the Catalogue of this College, by which it appears that the total number of Students for the year just closed was 140, being an increase of 25 over the preceding year. We congratulate the Students of this Institution upon the following Prizes, which, we have no doubt, will have a salutary influence on their minds in their efforts to obtain that knowledge which is more precious than gold, and which alone can qualify them to compete, with credit to themselves and with honor to their country, for the more influential, useful, and responsible stations in the community.

By His Excellency the GOVERNOR-GENERAL,—“THE ELGIN PRIZE,”—*Paley's Evidences of Christianity.*

THE PRESIDENT'S PRIZE, 1st and 2nd,—*General History.*

THE TRUSTEES' AND VISITORS' PRIZES,—*Classics.*

PROFESSOR PADDOCK'S PRIZE,—*Mathematics.*

Connected with the Catalogue is an able, interesting, and most useful Address, delivered before the Faculty and Students, by the Principal, the Rev. Dr. MACNAB, at the opening of the present session. This Address, though designed particularly for the young gentlemen connected with the College, may be perused with profit by any who are endeavoring to improve or cultivate their minds.—[Christian Guardian.]

*New House for District Grammar School.*—The Wellington District Council, at its recent sitting, granted the sum of £150 towards the erection and completion of “a building for a new District Grammar School”—the Town and Township of Guelph having guaranteed the sum of £143 towards the same object.