

according to its assessed value, and opening the school to the children of all without exception. The latter mode is likely to supersede both the others; but its existence and operation, in connexion with each school, depend upon the annual decision of the inhabitants of each school section at a public meeting called for that purpose.

The duties of Teachers are prescribed by law, and their rights are effectually protected. No teacher is entitled to any part of the school fund who does not conduct his school according to law, and who has not a legal certificate of qualifications from a county Board of Public Instruction; nor is any school section entitled to receive any aid from the school fund in which a school is not kept open six months during each year by a teacher thus recognized as to both moral character and attainments. The law also requires a public quarterly examination to be held in each school.

The inspection of the schools is made by local Superintendents, who are appointed annually by the county councils, and who may be appointed one for each county, or one for one or more townships, at the pleasure of each county council. Each local superintendent is entitled to at least one pound (four dollars) per annum for each school under his charge. He is often allowed more. He is required to visit each school at least once a quarter, and to deliver a public lecture on education in each school section once a year, besides apportioning the school monies to the several school sections within his jurisdiction, giving checks, on the orders of trustees, to qualified teachers upon the county treasurer or sub-treasurer, aiding in the examination of teachers, deciding various questions of dispute and reference, corresponding on school matters, and reporting annually to the Chief Superintendent according to the forms prepared and furnished by him.

Besides the local superintendents, all clergymen recognized by law, judges, members of the Legislature, magistrates, members of county councils, and aldermen, are school visitors, to visit all the schools, as far as practicable, within their respective charges and municipalities. Their visits are voluntary; they are desired "especially to attend the quarterly examination of schools, and at the time of such visits to examine the progress of the pupils, and the state and management of the schools, and to give such advice to teachers and pupils, and any others present, as they may think advisable, in accordance with the regulations and instructions which shall be provided in regard to school visitors according to law." The law also authorises the holding of general meetings of school visitors in any municipality, on the appointment of any two visitors, "to devise such means as they may deem expedient for the efficient visitation of the schools, and to promote the establishment of libraries and the diffusion of useful knowledge." The school visits of the clergy in Upper Canada amounted last year to 2,566; the number of visits by the other school visitors was 9,970; and 5,852 visits were made by local superintendents, being an increase of 2,879, over those of the preceding year.

There is a Board of Public Instruction in each county, consisting of local superintendents and the trustees of grammar schools in such county. These county boards consist largely of the clergy of different religious persuasions, associated with some of the most intelligent lay gentlemen in each county; so that the country has the best guarantee that its circumstances will admit for the moral character and intellectual qualifications of teachers. The teachers are examined, and arranged into three classes, according to a Programme of Examination prepared and prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada.

The Municipal Council of each county is responsible for raising at least an equal sum for salaries of teachers in the several townships within its jurisdiction with that which is annually apportioned to them out of the parliamentary appropriation by the Chief Superintendent of Schools. The county councils also appoint the local treasurers of the school fund, and the local superintendents of schools, and provide for their salaries. Special provision is also made for the security of the school fund, against the diversion of any part of it, and for the prompt payment of it to teachers at the times specified by law. Both the county and township councils have authority to raise any sums they shall think proper for public school libraries under general regulations prescribed according to law. A parliamentary appropriation has been made for the establishment of school libraries, to be expended on the same conditions with the appropriation for the support of schools.

The law also provides a system adapted to the circumstances of cities, towns, and incorporated villages. In each city and town there is one board of trustees for the management of all the schools in such city or town—two trustees elected for each ward, and holding office for two years—one retiring annually. In each incorporated village not divided into wards, there is a board of six trustees elected—two retiring from office and two elected, each year. These boards of trustees, thus constituted, appoint the local superintendent, and determine upon the number and kinds of schools, the employment of teachers, and all the expenses necessary for the schools in each such city, town, or incorporated village; and the municipal council is required in each case to raise the sum or sums estimated by the board of trustees for all their school purposes, and in the manner that they shall desire. There is also the same provision for the establishment of libraries in each city, town and village, as exists in respect to their establishment in each township and county.

At the head of the whole system we have a Council of Public Instruction and a Chief Superintendent of Schools, both appointed by the Crown. The Council has the entire management of the Provincial Normal and Model Schools, recommends the text-books for the schools and books for the school libraries, and makes the regulations for the organization, government and discipline of common schools, the examination and classification of teachers, and the establishment and care of school libraries throughout Upper Canada.

The Chief Superintendent, who is *ex-officio* member of the Council of Public Instruction, and provides accommodations for its meetings; apportions the school fund to the several municipalities throughout Upper Canada, prepares the general school regulations and submits them, as well as that of text and library books, to the consideration of the Council; prepares the forms of reports and modes of all school proceedings under the act, and gives instructions for conducting them, as well as for holding teachers' institutes; decides questions of dispute submitted to him; takes the general superintendence of the Normal School; provides facilities for procuring text and library books, and provides and recommends plans of school-houses; prepares annual reports; corresponds with local school authorities throughout Upper Canada, and employs all means in his power for the promotion of education and the diffusion of useful knowledge. He is responsible for his official conduct and for all moneys that pass through his Department.

Such is an epitome of the system of public elementary instruction in Upper Canada. The foundation may be considered as fairly laid, and something has been done towards rearing the superstructure. In 1846, provision was made for the establishment of a Normal School, and the sum of £1,500 a-year was granted towards its support. The school was opened in the autumn of 1847, and, since then, 618 teachers have been trained, a longer or shorter time, by able masters, including practice in teaching in a Model School established for that purpose. Last year, a grant of £1,000 per annum was made to facilitate the attendance of teachers-in-training at the Normal School, and £15,000 for the erection of buildings—for particulars respecting which the reader is referred to the engravings in this number, to the Address to the GOVERNOR GENERAL, and His EXCELLENCY'S Reply. The number of schools in Upper Canada under the care of the Department is 3,059; the amount of money available during the year for the salaries of teachers, besides all other expenses connected with the schools, was £88,536; the number of pupils in the schools reported, was 151,891.

There has been an annual increase in the statistical returns of each branch of the common school system during the last five years. The system is to a great extent voluntary. Each municipality exercises its discretion as to whether it will or will not accept the parliamentary appropriation upon the conditions specified; and each school section does the same in regard to the terms on which aid is offered in support of its school. The general regulations and oversight are such as merely to secure a fulfilment, in each locality, of conditions which are required by the Legislature—the collective wisdom and voice of the country—and to maintain a standard of teaching that will prevent funds provided for the promotion of knowledge, from being prostituted upon ignorance and vice. The working of the common school system is a great social development—yet in its infancy, but instinct with life and energy, and fraught with results which can be more easily conceived than described.