

price on his services, they would not hesitate to choose the latter, who possesses the essential condition, in their opinion. You will allow that this is a deplorable way of judging of men and of things. They must have but a slight knowledge of the value of education, to thus sacrifice it to a vile profit. Let us hope that those calculations of a blind economy will disappear with the onward march of education, thanks to the Normal Schools.

Permit us, then, in concluding to wish the pupils of the Normal Schools the success which their zeal and self imposed sacrifices merit. Their calling is an honorable calling. They have to model the nobler part of man. The sculptor chisels the shapeless marble into an appearance of life; the teacher must draw the mind itself from the darkness of ignorance. We admire the citizen who devotes himself to the service of his country, the soldier who bleeds in her defence; but the teacher, who dedicates the better portion of his life, to a most laborious and painful vocation for the purpose of enlightening and bringing up a new generation, to be industrious and worthy citizens of their country, most certainly merits equally the esteem, the respect, and the encouragement of every religious and patriotic member of society.

### Report of the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada for 1857.

(Continued from our last.)

To improve the condition of the teachers has always been a constant aim of the department. The irregular method of paying their salaries had always till now been one of the chief obstacles to the progress of education. This irregularity was produced partly by the negligence of the school-commissioners, partly by the forced tardiness of the department in distributing the half yearly aid, in consequence of the system adopted; a system which required the passing of an order in council for the payment of the share of each several municipality, when and as soon as the commissioners should have conformed to the law by transmitting their report. The legislation of 1856 obviated this inconvenience, by placing the entire amount at once, at the expiration of the half-year, in the hands of the superintendent. The following table will shew the progress made in the distribution of the grant, in consequence of this important reform.

A table shewing the dates of the payment of the annual grant to the various municipalities in recent years.

Half yearly payments	Dates of payment.	Month in which payment was made.	Number of municipalities paid.	Amount paid.	
				£ s. d.	
Second	1854,....	1855	March,...	165	8133 12 8
Second	1854,....	1855	April,....	102	2825 8 0
Second	1854,....	1855	May,.....	59	1680 16 9
Second	1854,....	1855	June, ....	14	231 3 6
Second	1854,....	1855	August, ..	18	495 16 11
Second	1854,....	1855	October, ..	15	450 5 3
Second	1854,....	1855	December,	5	96 8 1
First	1855,....	1855	August, ..	338	10219 3 10
First	1855,....	1855	October, ..	101	3349 1 9
First	1855,....	1855	December,	22	505 15 1
Second	1855,....	1856	February,.	383	10898 18 0
Second	1855,....	1856	May,.....	79	2330 7 3
Second	1855,....	1856	July,.....	14	399 6 6
Second	1855,....	1856	August, ..	17	577 1 11
First	1856,....	1856	August, ..	421	12255 13 1
First	1856,....	1856	September,	38	808 3 11
First	1856,....	1856	October, ..	17	441 14 11
First.	1856,....	1856	November,	7	156 16 9
First	1856,....	1856	December,	5	63 11 10
Second	1856,....	1857	January,...	207	6435 7 3
Second	1856,....	1857	February,.	167	4538 9 3
Second	1856,....	1857	March,...	61	1651 4 6

First	1857,...	1857	July,.....	307	9198 12 0
			August, ..	142	2870 0 0
Second	1857, ...	1858	January,...	211	6660 0 0
			February,.	157	4401 0 0
			March,...	96	2276 0 0
First	1858,....	1858	July,.....	366	10543 0 0

Thus, while no part of the second half-year's grant for 1854, which was payable on 1st January, 1855, had been paid on 1st March, 1855, and at the end of that month there were only 163 municipalities which had received their share thereof; in 1856, 211 municipalities had been paid for the second half of 1857, by the last day of January; and all had received their share, before the end of March. With respect to the second half of 1858, which fell due on 1st July instant, it will be seen that 366 municipalities have already received their shares of the grant, amounting to £10,513.

This not only shews the difference between the two systems of payment, but evinces likewise much greater diligence on the part of the municipalities. The one measure of reform contributed to effect the other: for as soon as the municipalities had the assurance that the department would be prompt to pay what was due to them, when all the formalities were fulfilled, the local authorities, having the whole responsibility of delay, would naturally use greater diligence in the performance of their duties. It is also important that the teachers should be made aware how promptly payments are now made, in order that the Secretary-Treasurers may no longer have a pretext for retaining the masters' salaries in their hands, of which unfortunately more than one instance has occurred. Whenever any considerable delay occurs, the teacher now knows that the local authority is to blame; either that the commissioners have not collected the assessment, or that the Secretary-Treasurer is negligent in the performance of his duties.

Another important measure of reform has been effected by the legislation of 1856. The commissioners frequently changed, and still continue to change, their schoolmasters without any reason, or usually actuated by the very unjustifiable motive of a mistaken spirit of economy. If they did not venture to disavow the teacher, before the expiration of his engagement, they waited till the day before it was to terminate, and then, if they found another willing to take the place at a lower salary, he was informed that his services were no longer required. My predecessor had wisely required commissioners and school trustees to give three months' notice to any master whom they did not wish to re-engage after the termination of his engagement. The executive government had considered the absence of a regular notice to be equivalent to an arbitrary dismissal without cause; and in several instances of this kind, I have been authorised to pay to teachers, indemnities which were deducted from the share of the grant, belonging to the municipality. The provision of the law, under which these payments were made, was one most favorable to the teachers; and it is to be hoped that the example of the municipalities who have been thus punished will have the effect of speedily putting an end to so great an abuse.

We have seen in the recapitulation of the statistics, that on the whole, an encouraging increase has taken place in the salaries; but in order to ensure the progress of this increase, until the teacher shall have attained to his proper position in the social scale, an augmentation of the grant for common schools is absolutely necessary. The insufficient amount of this grant, which instead of increasing, in respect of each municipality, diminishes a little every year, as I have before shewn, bears chiefly on the teacher, while all other items of expenditure remain nearly unchanged, or rather grow in amount, the salary of the teacher seems to be almost the only thing considered to be sufficiently elastic to give way, in the numerous combinations required by the insufficiency of municipal resources. Every year in every municipality new school districts are formed, new schools established, new teachers engaged, at trifling salaries it is true; the effect however is, that the remuneration of the other masters cannot be raised, but must often be somewhat diminished. The whole extent of the evil resulting from such a state of things cannot be conceived. The teacher cannot understand why he is the only person in society who is doomed to see his pecuniary resources, not increase, but diminish, while he exhausts himself with toil, with zealous service, with study to attain perfect skill in his profession. He loses heart, he abandons his profession, or what is still worse, he exercises it carelessly and negligently, and loses instead of gaining ground. It