

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORMAL, MODEL AND COMMON SCHOOLS IN UPPER CANADA FOR THE YEAR 1848.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor-General of Canada, etc., etc., etc.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Common School Act, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, to be laid before the Legislature, my School Report for the year 1848. I have thought it advisable to limit the statistical part of the Report to Districts,—omitting the mention and separate statistics of individual Townships. For the same reason I think it proper to confine my remarks to a few statements and references, having discussed at considerable length in my last year's Report the several subjects involved in the system and progress of Common Schools.

I. THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

It is gratifying to observe, that in every respect the Schools are in advance of that of the preceding year. This improvement is not confined to one department, or to a few Districts, but extending to every District, City, and Incorporated Town in Upper Canada, with the single exception of the City of Toronto. There is, as might be supposed, a great difference in the state of the Schools in different Districts, and a great difference in their comparative improvement; but it is an encouraging fact, that there is some improvement in them all; and that that improvement is under the heads which evince most strongly the increasing co-operation and interest of the people at large in the support of the Common Schools.

II. SCHOOL MONEYS.

In the year 1847 the principal part of the Special Grant of £1,500 for the establishment of the Provincial Normal School was expended, and was consequently deducted from the Legislative School Grant for the following year; so that there were £1,259 less apportioned for the support of Common Schools in the various Districts in 1848 than there had been in 1847. Yet, notwithstanding this deduction, the amount available for the Salaries of Teachers for 1848 is £8,470 in advance of that for 1847:—the total amount available for the Salaries of Teachers in 1847 being £77,599 11s. 4¼d., while that for 1848 is £86,069 2s. 3¼d. As there was a reduction of £1,259 in the Legislative Grant apportioned to the several Districts in 1848, as compared with that for 1847, (a reduction which will not occur again), it follows that the amount raised by voluntary local taxation for the salaries of School Teachers was £9,728 more in 1848 than in 1847,—while the amount raised by local voluntary taxation by School Trustees in 1847 for the same purpose was £5,490 in advance of that for 1846. Of this increase of £9,728 in the total amount available for the Salaries of Teachers in 1848 over that of 1847, we have an increase of £2,404 under the head of District Council Assessments, and £7,324 under the head of Trustees' Rate-bills,—or that which the people in the several School Sections voluntarily tax themselves for the Salaries of Teachers to instruct their children, over and above the amount of the School Fund,—which consists of the Legislative Grant and the County Municipal Council Assessments for the year. The total amount of School Rate-bills was, for 1846, £29,385 12s. 3¼d.; for 1847, £30,543 10s. 5¼d.; for 1848, £37,968 10s. 7¼d. Thus, these returns exhibit not only a large increase in the amount of moneys raised for the Salaries of Teachers in 1848 over that of any preceding year, but an increase under each of the heads, which evince the growing general interest of parents in the education of their children.

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