

2. After much consideration, and in harmony with the principle on which the School Fund in each Municipality is distributed, *local exertion* (and not property or population) appears to be the most equitable basis of apportioning the Library Grant, and that which is likely to give most general satisfaction and to exert the most beneficial influence. The principle of aiding each School Municipality (whether it be a Township, City, Town, Village, or School Section) in proportion as it exerts and helps itself, is, upon the whole, unobjectionable, and is best calculated to excite and bring into action that kind of interest and public spirit which are the life of any general system of social advancement. This, therefore, is the principle on which the Library Grant will be distributed.

3. As to the *amount* to be apportioned to each Municipality—whether a School Section or Township—it has been decided to add, in the first apportionment, *seventy-five* per cent. to all sums raised by local exertion—thus apportioning £9 for every £12, and £75 for every £100 raised in a Municipality, and so on, in the same ratio for larger or smaller sums raised by local effort. This is a larger apportionment than has been intimated in the correspondence of the Department, and is ventured upon with some hesitation, from the apprehension of inability to continue it. So large an addition to the sums raised by local effort can only now be promised in the first apportionment. Those Municipalities, therefore, which desire to have the books during the ensuing winter, will be supplied with them on payment of the amount of their appropriation—which they can transmit by check or in bank bills, as may be most convenient—if possible before the 15th instant.

4. The question next to be considered is, should the School Sections and other larger Municipalities, which have not yet acted upon the Circulars sent to them in the latter part of August, or have not yet notified the sums they propose to appropriate for the establishment of Libraries, be excluded from the first apportionment of the Legislative Grant for that purpose? This was intended by the terms of the Circular referred to, and by the notice in the *Journal of Education* for October. But the following objections and representations have been urged against such a decision in numerous communications which have been made to the Educational Department. 1. The notice was too short for the people of many Townships and School Sections to consult and act upon it within the time prescribed. It is stated that the *Journal of Education*, containing the Circulars, Regulations, and Catalogue of Books for Libraries, sent out near the end of August, was not received in many places until sometime in September—the 20th of which was stated as the time for returning their answers; that the second notice in the *Journal of Education* for October was not received in many Sections until it was too late to call official meetings before the 20th of the month—the latest period mentioned for replies from them; that in some of the Municipalities the officers to whom the *Journal of Education* containing the Circulars, Regulations, and Catalogue were addressed, who alone had authority to call the corporate meetings for considering them, were absent; that in other instances they were individually indifferent or opposed to accepting the offer made, and paid no attention to it; while a great portion of their Municipality were anxious to secure its advantages. 2. It is also stated in several letters by Reeves and others (who have hastened to accept the offer made, some of them on their own personal responsibility, not having had time to call a meeting of their colleagues), that until they received the notice in the *Journal of*

*Education* for October, they supposed, from the tenor of the previous Circulars, that they could make their reply any time before the 1st of next July, as that was the time at or before which they were to raise money in order to share in the first apportionment of the Library Grant; that they had thought it better not to attempt to call meetings on the subject during the busy months of September and October, but to wait until the annual School meetings in January; that they were persuaded many others had received the same impression with themselves.

5. In reply to these and many similar statements, the undersigned has to say that, by the utmost exertions possible, the Circulars, Regulations, and extensive Catalogue of Books for Libraries, could not be prepared at an earlier period than they were; that the sole reason for giving so short a time to School and other Municipalities to make their replies, was a desire to get the largest possible number of Libraries established before the winter; that it is both his wish and his duty to extend the advantages of the Library system to as many, and as widely, as possible; that he should be sorry to cause loss and injury to whole Municipalities on account of the voluntary negligence or opposition of one or two individuals; and he would shrink from excluding Municipalities for causes accidental and not faulty, and more especially Municipalities in the newer and remoter parts of the Province, where the means of communication and intercourse are less frequent and easy than in the older Townships.

6. Under these circumstances, and after carefully considering the facts above stated, and reviewing the whole question involved, the undersigned deems it his duty frankly and at once to explain and modify the terms of his previous Circulars and notice in the three following particulars:—

(1.) All School and other Municipalities that will advance money before the 1st of next July (at whatever time they may signify their intention to do so) for the establishment of Libraries, will be included in the first apportionment of the Legislative Library Grant. If the sum heretofore mentioned is insufficient for that purpose, the balance will be provided from the Grant for next year.

(2.) All School Sections, as well as Townships, will be included—whether such Sections are situated in Townships, the Councils of which act or not in the establishment of Libraries; for the sums raised in individual Sections are only so many additions to what has been or may be appropriated by the Township Council.

(3.) All those Municipalities (nearly two hundred in number) that have already acted so promptly in the matter, and notified the sums raised or appropriated by them for the establishment of Libraries, will be entitled to an apportionment of *seventy-five* per cent. on any *additional* sums they may appropriate and expend for the same purpose before the 1st of next July. And should the Legislature increase the Library Grant (as is to be hoped) so as to increase the apportionment to *one hundred* per cent. on all sums raised by local effort for School Libraries, an additional apportionment of *twenty-five* per cent. will be made upon all sums that have been appropriated by the Municipalities which have already moved in the noble work.

The undersigned confidently trusts that the foregoing views will meet the circumstances and wishes of all parties, and afford the greatest encouragement and facilities possible for the establishment of libraries throughout Upper Canada, even in single school sections, and in the remotest townships.