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ONTARIO SCHOOLS AND THE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

The Chief Superintendent has just issued the following Circular to the various School Trustees and Inspectors:—

"It having been deemed desirable and fitting that the Education Department, as well as the various Schools of the country (whether public or private), should have an opportunity of taking part in the proposed Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia next year, the Government have assented to a proposition which I made to the Honourable Adam Crooks, M.P.P., Provincial Treasurer, on the subject, as follows:—

"I have the honour to state, that since conversing with you on the expediency of this Department taking part in the proposed American Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia next year, I have thought it desirable to make some practical suggestions to you on the subject. In doing so, I would enclose for your information the copy of a pamphlet on the educational features of the proposed Exhibition, received from General the Honourable John Eaton, United States Commissioner of Education at Washington, containing suggestions from the National Board of Education "respecting the Educational Exhibit at the International Centennial Exhibition, 1876." This Bureau, I may remark, has been designated by the Centennial Commission as "the Central agency" for carrying out the plans for the Educational department of the Exhibition and as the organ of communication on the subject.

"1. I would first suggest that a suitable selection of the maps, globes, charts, apparatus, and other School appliances and illustrations, manufactured in this Province under the direction of this Department, or elsewhere, as well as the Text-Books of the Schools, be sent for exhibition at Philadelphia.

"2. That the various Boards of School Trustees be requested to send to this Department two photographs each (of a prescribed size) of their school buildings and fittings, &c.

"A selection of the photographs received could then be made for the Exhibition, and the duplicate copies received might be arranged for our own museum.

"3. That the Trustees be also requested to send to the Department a selection of "pupils' work in drawing and penmanship." From the samples sent a selection could be made for the Exhibition.

"4. That three models of approved primary and intermediate school-houses, out-buildings, and grounds, &c., to be made under the direction of the Department, for the Exhibition.

"5. That large photographs of the Department and of the Normal Schools at Toronto and Ottawa, be made.

"The whole to be suitably mounted and prepared for the Exhibition.

"I would also respectfully suggest that Dr. Hodgins, the Deputy Superintendent, be appointed an Educational Commissioner to the Exhibition on behalf of the Department, and that he be specially authorized to carry out the foregoing suggestions, if approved by the Government."

"To this letter the Hon. Mr. Crooks made the following reply:—

"In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I beg to state that an appropriation will be asked from the House to cover the necessary expenditure in connection with a proper representation of the Educational Department at the Philadelphia Exhibition. Your suggestions appear to be such as will secure that object. The Deputy Superintendent will receive the authority he desires for enabling him to carry out your suggestions."

"In accordance therefore, with the foregoing letters, I would suggest that any School desiring to aid the Department in promoting the Educational success of the Province at the proposed Exhibition would send to the Department as soon as convenient, the following:—

"1. Two photographs, giving a perspective view from the most striking point, for not less than fifty feet distance, of the exterior of the School Buildings alone. Each photographic sheet of a one-story building to be exactly 7 x 9 inches in size, and the building itself in the photograph to be 6 x 4 inches. Each sheet of a two or three-story building to be exactly 10 x 12 inches in size, and the building in the picture 6 x 8 inches. In all cases the photographs are to be sent unmounted, with the name of the School pencilled on the back. A description of the building, its size and date of erection, should also accompany the photographs.

"2. Two plans in Indian ink of the school-rooms on each floor of the building. These plans to be exactly drawn to a scale of seven inches to the foot.

"3. One plan in Indian ink of the whole School premises drawn on the scale of thirty feet to the inch, and showing position of out-buildings, etc.

"4. Such specimens of pupils' work as are enumerated below:—

(1) Writing books Nos. 4 and 6, of the authorized Departmental series (published by Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto), to be completed by a boy and a girl. The selection of completed copy books to be sent to the Department might be made by competition in each School or separate department of a School, under the direction of the Trustees or Managers. The name, age and class of pupil, and length of attendance, should be written on the first page of the copy book.

(2) Two Drawing books of the authorized series (Vere Foster's), and of the following numbers; to be completed one by a boy and one by a girl. The selection by competition may be made in the same manner as the writing books. As a minimum, any two of the following Drawing books may be selected for each School or separate department of a School: