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### OPENING OF THE OTTAWA NORMAL SCHOOL.

An event of great interest and importance took place in Ottawa on the 22nd inst., when the new and handsome Normal School for that section of the Province was formally opened. We quote from the report given in the *Times* :—

Rev. Dr. Ryerson moved that the Lieutenant-Governor take the Chair, and in doing so said His Honor's kind consent to act had been obtained. This he was sure would be gratifying to the citizens and the various gentlemen present, especially when it was remembered that he had been second to none in his commercial and manufacturing connections in promoting the interests of education and progress. Now he stood at the head of the Government of the great Province of Ontario, a position he occupied worthily. (Cheers.)

Mayor Featherston, in seconding the resolution, reviewed briefly the history of the movement in favour of the institution of a Normal School at this point, so far as the citizens were concerned, and he congratulated the city and the Provincial Government that now they had approached this important stage in the matter and were about to witness the formal opening of the Normal School. He welcomed the Lieutenant-Governor to the city, who during his stay amongst us had endeared himself to all by his princely generosity and kindness of heart, and had besides taken a deep interest in Ottawa and the surrounding district as a public man. He also welcomed the Premier of the Provincial Government and the other gentlemen who did them the honour of being present upon the occasion. (Cheers.)

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, on taking the chair, expressed the pleasure he had in being present to witness such an auspicious event. Both as the head of the Executive of Ontario, and as a native Canadian hailing from the eastern portion of the Province, he was much pleased at having the opportunity of being present at the opening of a Normal School located in the east. The population of the peninsula, the educational interests of which would be served by this institution, numbered, if he recollected rightly, from 160,000 to 175,000, and from its central position and the facilities of communication by rail and water from every side, he really thought that no better location could have been selected for it. There was a very large population in this very vicinity to reap the benefits. There were Ottawa with its 25,000 or over, the flourishing villages of Rochester and New Edinburgh on each side of and almost forming part of it, and the City of Hull adjoining, with its 8,000 or 10,000; indeed, there was, ac-

ording to his calculation, a population of some 40,000 within a radius of three miles, having the Normal School as a centre. These things formed a very strong inducement to the Government to locate the School at this point, enhanced as its position was by two railway lines giving it communication with the interior, and the great river Ottawa connecting it with the east and west. He remarked that, in addition to what he had already said as to the sources from which the Normal School might expect students, there were the Counties of Ottawa and Pontiac lying immediately in front and to the west, each with a population of 30,000; and although they lay within the Province of Quebec, he felt assured the people of Ontario and of this vicinity would willingly extend to them the advantages offered by the Ottawa Normal School. He was pleased with the location of the school for another reason. He was aware, from a knowledge gained by a residence of two years in their midst that the people of Ottawa were remarkable for their intelligence, their industry, their frugality, their sobriety and general uprightness of conduct and propriety of behaviour, and he knew of no place in this country or elsewhere that was more noticeable for its maintenance of public order and its respect for the authority of the law. (Loud cheers.)

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, who was received with cheers, prefaced his remarks by a facetious assurance that he was always willing to submit to authority, and of course would obey the Lieutenant-Governor when called upon. He was happy to respond to the invitation accorded him by the Chief Superintendent to be present and witness the opening of the Normal School. Dr. Ryerson had recently recited the fact, in a letter to the public press, that he had been somewhat unwillingly induced by him (Mr. Mackenzie) to commit his ideas regarding the establishment of additional Normal Schools to paper. This was at the time he (Mr. Mackenzie) was acting as Premier of Ontario. The necessity of having at least three additional Normal Schools had frequently pressed itself upon his attention, and he thought then, as he was strongly of opinion yet, that they should be located at Ottawa, Kingston and London respectively. He found himself in accord with the views of the Chief Superintendent of Education upon this subject, and although he left the Government of Ontario a few days after the occurrence referred to by Dr. Ryerson, he had the pleasure, as one of his last executive acts, of drafting an Order in Council embodying his opinions. He did not then expect to become a citizen of Ottawa, but in that capacity he now took the opportunity of congratulating the people, the Government, and the Chief Superintendent upon the fulfilment of at least one part of the programme, and to express the earnest desire that the Premier of Ontario would soon be able to carry out the rest of it. An examination had shown him, while interesting himself in this matter as a member of the Ontario Government, that the Normal School at Toronto, while very efficiently conducted—perhaps, indeed, all that could be desired in a Normal School—was limited in its operations to a somewhat small portion of the country, and if memory served him right, the record showed that the County of York furnished as many of its students as the whole of the rest of the Province combined, thus making it very much more of a local institution than seemed to him desirable in the interests of education. Our Normal School accommodation, he also remarked, was small as compared to the States of the American Republic, which lay close to us, and there was too little desire among teachers to make their calling a profession. It was too frequently a make-shift with both ladies and gentlemen, who merely used it as a means of obtaining other situations, and it was not regarded in the light of an employment which was to be permanent, and which in itself offered all the opportunity for promotion which was to be desired. The remuneration for teaching was not yet