

the head of whom would naturally be found members of the clergy. It counted, moreover, (and this has not proved the least important element of its success) on the good sense, the spirit of order and the peaceful and pious habits of the population. But these penalties and restrictions had been valueless without the aid of the central authority to apply them. It was necessary that the zeal and the efforts of educated men should be seconded and sustained by an authority independent of that which it was intended to supervise, frequently even to control. In fact the good disposition of the Canadian people required to be stimulated and developed by men specially charged with that mission, and receiving fair remuneration for their struggles with men—educated men, unfortunately, but partizans of ignorance, with a view to the attainment of political ends. Thence arose the office of Inspector, and only since its creation has any progress been made.

Since that time the opposition to schools has not ceased to exist, but taken a fresh direction. It is no longer directed against taxation absolutely (although in many places there is still a predilection in favor of the illusory resource of voluntary subscription), but its aim is now to prevent the increase of teachers' salaries, to impede the establishment of Model Schools, and to oppose all improvements necessary to promote the progress of education. So well aware of this were the Legislature and the Government, that every succeeding Session has conferred new powers on the Department, to enable it to contend with these fatal proclivities. Now the powers thus assigned, and those which the law had already given, could be exercised only by the medium and aid of agents appointed by the Government, paid by the Government, and responsible to the Government.

In short, in both sections of the Province, the system of public instruction is both departmental and municipal, but in Upper Canada it partakes more of the latter than the former; and there is nothing surprising in the fact, that the same principle also predominates in the business of inspection. In Lower Canada the opposite is the true state of things, and those persons who wish to see the system of Upper Canada introduced, independently of any other consideration, should premise the assimilation of the two school codes, and provide for the relief of the Department from a hundred faculties and duties which it would become impossible to exercise and discharge.

I regret the great length to which this Report has grown. As the terms of your letter were made as comprehensive as possible, I thought it incumbent on me to omit no labor of research which might be necessary in order to complete the body of information required.

I recapitulate as follows:—

1. I should prefer some improvement of the present system to any actual change, as I have shewn at the close of the first section of this work.

2. The reduction of the number of inspectors, so as to increase the amount of remuneration and yet to diminish the actual expenditure, seems to me very difficult to be effected. Assuming such a reduction, I should recommend the plan set forth in table B. Twelve districts, instead of ten laid down in the table, would seem preferable, and afford room to diminish the extent of Districts 3, 6, and 7. But in that case it would be requisite either to lower the proposed rates of salaries, or otherwise to give up the hope of any saving. With twelve inspectors and the following scale of salaries, \$1,200, \$1,400, and \$1,600, we should reach \$16,300, and effect a saving of rather more than \$600. I fear the above rates of salary would be too low. It would be found necessary to turn to the consideration of another system of remuneration, that of allowing so much for fees for each school visitation, and so much for travelling expenses per day when absent from place of residence.

3. It does not appear to me practicable, in the present state of the municipal system of Lower Canada and of the law respecting public instruction, to relieve this department from the expense and labor of the inspection of schools, and it is my sincere conviction, that for a long time to come, no system of purely municipal inspection can be brought to work with advantage.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU,
Superintendent of Education.