

But, even supposing that such favorable results had not yet been attained, there would be no ground for discouragement, for the usefulness of institutions of this description is not to be calculated only by the number of teachers who have gone forth from them, but also by the influence which they exercise directly and indirectly over the instructing body. Now, there can be no doubt but that the establishment of Normal schools, and the dispersing over various parts of the country of the pupils from those schools, has given rise to a great spirit of emulation, and contributed to diffuse better systems of instruction. A considerable number of the pupils from the schools have even penetrated to the most remote parts of the country, and are teaching in new settlements in which, not very long ago, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining teachers who were merely holders of diplomas from a Board of Examiners.

The attention of the Government and of the Legislature has been frequently drawn to the urgent necessity of erecting suitable buildings for the Laval and Jacques-Cartier Normal Schools. The arrangement by which the former of those schools is still located in a hired building, to which is attached no court-yard or play-ground, is far from being economical or advantageous in any respect.

With respect to the Jacques-Cartier Normal School, I have had the honor of frequently representing to the Government that the wing of the old Government House, occupied by that institution, is not only insufficient for the purpose, but also that, in consequence of irreparable defects in construction, its ruin is impending, and may from day to day place the lives of professors and pupils in jeopardy. The erection of these buildings is therefore one of the most urgent requirements of this department, if it is wished to persevere in normal instruction and the training of teachers.

Among other means calculated to increase the efficiency of the body of teachers hitherto employed, are the establishment of a savings fund for aged or sick teachers, the publication of a Journal of Public Instruction in both languages, the establishment of conferences of

teachers, and the re-organization, under more stringent regulations, of the Boards of Examiners.

In several previous reports it has been already proved that the savings fund can never attain a flourishing condition until the Government grant shall have been increased by one-half.

Conferences of the different associations of teachers which have been formed in Lower Canada have been attended by an encouraging number of the members of the instructing body; it is, however, to be desired that all teachers should participate at least once or twice during the year in the great advantages which may result from these institutions. School commissioners have been strongly recommended to grant freely to teachers leave solicited for this purpose, in view of the certain and ample compensation which they will receive for the time lost in the improvement of the systems of education, and the progress of all kinds which will ensue. The teacher's courage is tempered; he feels revived by contact with his fellows and his superiors, and returns to his daily labor at the conclusion of the conferences with renewed energy. The different essays read by the teachers, and the sketches of the educational discussions which followed in those associations, have constituted one of the most important and useful resources in the editing of the Journal of Public Instruction.

The re-organization of the Boards of Examiners, and the enforcing of new regulations, appear to have had a salutary effect on the composition of the educating body. Several branches of instruction have received a new impulse in our primary schools in consequence of the publication of the programme of examination.

One of the most important points of the new regulation is the inspection of the Boards by the delegates of the Council of Public Instruction. I subjoin to this report those which have been hitherto submitted by the delegates in question.

The following is a summary of the annual statistical returns which the secretaries of the Boards are bound to transmit to this Department:—

ANNUAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY of the Boards of Examiners in Lower Canada, for the year 1864.

BOARD AT	Duration of the sittings, in days.	Number of candidates examined.	Average number of teachers examined daily.		Number of diplomas granted for academies 1st class.		For academies 2nd class.		For Model Schools 1st class.		For Model Schools 2nd class.		For Elementary Schools 1st class.		For Elementary Schools 2nd class.		Number of candidates admitted, and classification of diplomas.			Grand total.	Number of candidates rejected.
			Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Male Teachers.	Female Teachers.	Academy.	Model School.	Elementary School.		
Montreal, Catholics	7	181	25						3		1		18	85	4	52		4	159	163	18
do Protestants	6	69	15	2					3	6		1	6	24	4	13	2	10	47	59	10
Quebec, Catholics	5	49	12								1				2	19		1	21	22	27
do Protestants	6	22	3										3	2	5				15	15	7
Three Rivers	4	59	12		2					6		1		22		15	2	7	37	46	13
Sherbrooke	4	33	10		2				1	3	2			8		16	1	6	24	32	1
Kamouraska	3	25	8											4		12			16	16	9
Gaspé	2	6	3										4		2				6	6	
Stanstead	4	51	10										6	14	6	25			51	51	
Ottawa	4	30	7	2									8		19				27	27	3
Beauce	4	23	5											9		12			21	21	2
Chicoutimi	3	10	3	1										5		2			7	7	3
Rimouski	3	14	5												1	3			6	6	8
Bonaventure	3	6	2										2	2	1	1			6	6	
Pontiac	4	17	4										2	1	7	7			17	17	
Richmond	4	33	8										1	14	5	12			32	32	1
Waterloo and Sweetsburg, Cath...	3	17	5	2									2	11		4			17	17	
do do Prot...	5	98	19	2									8	39	9	31			90	90	8
Total	74	743	10	2	2	2			7	15	4	2	60	240	65	234	6	28	599	633	110