

In the absence of a common standard of attainments on the part of District School Superintendents, and of examinations and decisions by them, in respect to the qualifications of Teachers, this provision of the Act can be but very imperfectly carried into effect.

2. Classification of the Schools in the Districts, and in Cities and Towns.

At present the classification of the Schools must be considered as the opinion of each District School Superintendent of their standing in regard to other Schools on his District, or in respect to his own judgment of what a Common School ought to be. From the statements of several District Superintendents, I think the classification of the Schools is wholly relative, and has not been determined by an absolute standard.

3. Separate Schools in Cities and Towns Diminishing.

It appears also that, including all the Cities and Towns, (except the Cities of Toronto and Kingston, from which no reports have been received on the subject), there are only forty-one Separate Schools in Upper Canada. The number of them has been diminishing from year to year. I believe that it is better to leave the Law as it is, in respect to Separate Schools, than to have an agitation arising from the repeal of it.

X. KIND AND CHARACTER OF SCHOOL HOUSES IN UPPER CANADA, 1847.

No information has heretofore been obtained on the subject of School Houses,—their Kind and Character. This first attempt to ascertain the nature and extent of School-House accommodation in Upper Canada has been more successful than I had anticipated from the beginning; although it will be seen from Statistical Abstracts D and E, that no reports whatever have been received from the Cities of Toronto and Kingston, and that from the Bathurst, Home and London Districts, no returns have been made of the state of School Houses, in respect to repairs, furniture, appendages, etcetera. Information as to the present state and character of the School-Houses is the first step towards their improvement.

1. *Kinds of School-Houses*.—It appears that the total number of Common School-Houses in Upper Canada in 1847 was 2,572; of which 49 were brick, 84 stone, 1,028 frame, and 1,399 log.

2. *Sizes of School-Houses*.—In the Statistical Table and Abstract D, School-Houses are arranged in no less than fourteen classes in respect to size. Allowing an area of at least nine to twelve feet for each pupil, (according to the height of the room),* the extent of School-House accommodation in each Township, as well as in each Municipal District in Upper Canada, can be ascertained; and that, compared with the number of children of school age, as given in Statistical Table and Abstract A, will show the amount and deficiency of such accommodation in every District and Township respectively.

3. *Condition of School-Houses*.—699 are reported as in good repair; 817 in ordinary repair; 347 in bad repair; 1,705 having only one room; 98 having more than one room; 1,125 suitably furnished with desks, seats, etcetera; 683 not so furnished; only 432 furnished with facilities for ventilation; 1,119 not provided with proper facilities for ventilation; only 357 provided with a suitable playground; 1,378 destitute of a playground; only 163 furnished with privies; 1,571 reported as not so furnished.

1. Very Unsatisfactory State of the School Houses in Upper Canada.

Having no data on this subject, in reference to former years, I am not able to compare the present with the former condition of School-Houses. I shall not here dwell

*The least quantity of pure air required for each pupil is estimated, by the best writers on the subject, at from 135 to 150 cubic feet.