

Under the new Act, provision was made for the appointment of certain Officers unknown in the old Act, called School Trustees and Town, Township, and County Superintendents,—all of whom are required to make out Annual Reports of School matters within their respective jurisdiction.

The Book of Forms, Regulations and Instructions, issued by authority, directs that the County Superintendent's Report, embodying the facts contained in the returns of these subordinate officers shall be forwarded to the Education Office in each year, dated on the first day of January of that year.

THE YEAR 1844 WAS THE FIRST ONE IN WHICH A GENERAL REPORT WAS POSSIBLE.

As 1844 was the first year of the operation of the present School Act, the very first date, therefore, at which the first Annual Report from this Office could be furnished to the Government was the first day of August in the year 1845. . . .

It was not until the month of October last that Your Excellency was pleased to honour me with the appointment, during the absence of the Chief Superintendent, to the situation of Assistant Superintendent of Education for Canada West. . . .

1. The first thing that appears to have occupied the attention of the Reverend Robert Murray, late Assistant Superintendent of Education, at the commencement of the year was the circulation of the new School Act. A copy was ordered to be given to each of the Officers appointed to execute the provisions of the Act.

2. In the month of March an apportionment was made of the £50,000 granted by the Legislature in support of Common Schools in Canada. The portion assigned to Canada West was subdivided by the Reverend Robert Murray, upon the basis of the calculations made by that Officer, (under the old Act of 1841), for the year 1843. . . .

It has been impracticable for several years past, owing to the defectiveness of the census of 1841 and 1842, to acquire the exact ratio of division specified in existing statutes, and this is still the case, which is a cause of much inconvenience at the Education Office. . . .

3. The next special duty that engaged the attention of the Assistant Superintendent was the preparation of suitable Forms and Regulations for making all Reports, and conducting all necessary proceedings under the present Act, and the transmission of the same to the various authorities throughout this section of the Province, accompanied with such instructions for the better organization and government of Common Schools as that functionary deemed were necessary and proper. . . .

The circulation of so much information as is afforded through the medium of the Act, and the book of Forms, Regulations and Instructions would have had the effect, one would suppose, to render letter writing almost unnecessary, but the contrary is the fact. The correspondence of the Department during the year has been very extensive.

This extensive communication with all classes of the population still continues though it may rationally be expected, as intelligence in School matters spreads in the Country, that this portion of Office duties will be greatly diminished.

THE LOCAL SCHOOL STATISTICAL REPORTS.

From the various Municipal Districts in Upper Canada, Annual Reports have been received, embodying important statistical information in relation to the Public Schools, the particulars of which I will now proceed to lay before Your Excellency.

The number of School Districts in Canada West, is two thousand nine hundred and forty-five (2,945) in which are found resident, between the ages of five and sixteen years, one hundred and eighty-four thousand and sixty-two children (184,062).

Two thousand six hundred and ten (2,610) Schools have been in operation during portions of the year 1844, and the number of Pupils reported as having attended is