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The School Question in the last Session of Parliament.

As many of our readers have, doubtless, taken much interest in what transpired in Parliament during the last session, we reprint the bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Langerin, Solicitor General East, together with the debate which took place in the Legislative Assembly when this bill was withdrawn and Hon. Mr. Galt, Minister of Finance, tendered his resignation.

Mr. Bell's bill, alluded to in the debate, not only extended to the Catholics of Upper Canada the privileges sought to be conferred by the first measure, with regard to Superior education, Common schools, a Council of public instruction and a deputy superintendent of Education, but also provided that a Catholic normal school should be established in that section of the Province, as will be seen by a copy of this bill, also subjoined. We reproduce the debate from the report in the *Montreal Gazette*, as it seems to us the most complete.

BILL.

An Act to amend Chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, intituled: *An Act respecting Provincial aid for Superior Education and Normal and Common Schools.*

Whereas it is expedient to amend Chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada respecting provincial aid for Superior Education and Normal and Common Schools: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. The provincial aid for Educational purposes in Lower Canada shall be three hundred thousand dollars and apportioned as follows:

1. A sum of forty-five thousand dollars for Superior Education;
2. A sum of thirty thousand dollars for Normal Schools and their Building Fund;
3. A sum of thirty thousand dollars for Academies;
4. A sum of one hundred and seventy-three thousand dollars for Model and Common Schools and other expenses required by Chapter fifteen of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, and not above or hereafter mentioned;
5. A sum of twenty-two thousand dollars for salaries and contingencies of the Educational Department.

2. The Superior Education will comprise the Universities and the Classical and Industrial Colleges or Seminaries—and the provincial aid thereto as well as that for Academies shall be annually divided between the Roman Catholic and Protestant Institutions in proportion to the respective Roman Catholic and Protestant populations according to the then last census.

3. The Deputy Heads and Chief Clerks of the Educational Department shall be as follows: Two Deputy Superintendents, one a Roman Catholic and the other a Protestant, and three Chief Clerks.

4. The Deputy Superintendents shall be *ex officio* members of the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada, and the said Council shall consist of seventeen members, and the Roman Catholic and Protestant proportions thereof shall otherwise remain as they are now.

5. Dissentients shall not be liable for any assessment or school-rate which may be imposed by the School Commissioners, except for the assessment for the then current year, or for assessments for the building of any school-house previously contracted for, or for the payment of debts previously incurred; provided always, that such assessments are levied within six months from the date of the receipt of the declaration of dissent mentioned in the fifty-fifth section of said chapter, or of the declaration hereafter mentioned.

6. The word "inhabitant" wherever it occurs in the said 55th section of said chapter shall be and is hereby replaced by the words "proprietor, tenant or ratepayer."

7. Any dissentient may, at any time, declare in writing his intention of ceasing to support the dissentient school; and the receipt of his declaration by the Chairman of the School Trustees, and by the Chairman of the School Commissioners respectively, shall place him again under the control of the said School Commissioners, subject however to the restrictions above as to assessments.

8. The School Commissioners of the majority in any school municipality shall alone have the power of levying taxes on the lands and real estate of incorporated companies; but they shall annually pay over to the trustees of the minority a proportion of all the taxes levied by them on such companies, in the same ratio as the government grant for the same year shall have been divided between them and the said trustees; and the proportion of taxes so levied for the building of school-houses and for the payment of debts, thus paid over to the trustees aforesaid, shall be set apart by them for the building or the repairing of their own school houses.

9. Whenever the School Trustees of the minority in two adjoining municipalities shall be unable to support a school in each municipality, it shall be lawful in them to unite and to establish and maintain under their joint management, a school which shall be situated as near the limits of both municipalities as possible, so as to be accessible to both; said Trustees shall jointly report the proceedings to the Superintendent of Education, who shall remit the share of the common school grant to the Secretary-Treasurer whose name shall appear first on the return.

10. Whenever there shall be no dissentient school in a municipality, it shall be lawful for any resident head of a family professing the religious faith of the minority in the said municipality and having children of school age, to declare in writing to the chairman of the School Commissioners that he intends to support a school, in a neighbouring municipality, which school shall not be more than three miles distant from his residence; and he shall thenceforward pay, subject to the restrictions above mentioned, his taxes to the Commissioners or Trustees, as the case may be, by whom such school shall be maintained; but special mention shall be made in all school returns of children coming from a neighbouring municipality, and such children shall not be taken into account in apportioning the school grants between the Commissioners and Trustees.

11. Whenever the Trustees of Separate Schools in any municipality shall have been a year without schools, either in their own municipality or jointly with other Trustees in an adjoining municipality, and it shall appear that they are not carrying out the school law in good faith, and are taking no steps towards obtaining schools, it shall be lawful for the Superintendent of Education, after giving three consecutive notices in the *Journal of Education* to that effect to recommend to the Governor General in Council, three months after the publication of the first of the said notices, that the Corporation of Trustees of Separate Schools for such municipality be declared extinct; and the ratepayers who shall have been under the control of the said Trustees shall be subject to all the rates and assessments to be levied by the School Commissioners; but one year after the time at which such Corporation of Trustees shall have been declared extinct through the *Canada Gazette*, any number of the ratepayers professing the religious faith of the minority in such municipality may again elect Trustees and form a new corporation as by law provided.

12. Whenever four of the Protestant Members of the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada shall be of opinion that the management of the Protestant Schools should be distinct and separate from that of the Catholic Schools, they may make known that opinion under their respective signatures to the Governor through the Provincial Secretary.

13. Within three months after the receipt of said opinion by the Governor, an Order in Council shall be passed dividing the management of the Schools in Lower Canada, and giving to the Protestant Deputy Superintendent of Education the management of the Protestant Schools in the same manner as they now are under the management of the Superintendent of Education.

14. Within the above mentioned three months the said Protestant Members shall transmit to the Governor the names of three persons qualified to be Deputy Superintendent; and the Deputy Superintendent shall be appointed out of the above three persons, and shall have within his jurisdiction powers and duties similar to those given to and imposed upon the Superintendent of Education.

15. From the date of the said Order in Council, all the said Protestant Members shall cease to be Members of the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada, which shall thereafter be composed of the remaining Members of said Council; and the said Protestant