

2. As His Excellency was pleased to sanction the steps which I proposed two years since to take in order to provide School Text-books, Maps and Apparatus and Libraries for Upper Canada, and which I have explained at large in the Report laid before the Legislative Assembly during the last Session;* I hope the conclusion to which those preparatory conclusions have been brought will meet the approbation of His Excellency.

3. Being now in a position to give effect to the Library Department of our School System, I would respectfully request that His Excellency will be pleased to direct the issue of a Warrant in favour of Mr. Thomas G. Ridout, Cashier of the Bank of Upper Canada, for the sum which was appropriated by the Upper Canada School Act of 1850 for Public Libraries in Upper Canada† and which has not yet been applied for,—which sum to be paid by Mr. Ridout on my order for the purposes specified.

4. By the Forty-first Section of the Act referred to, (13th and 14th Victoria, Chapter 48,) Three Thousand pounds, (£3,000,) per Annum of the Upper Canada portion of the School Grant was set apart for the establishment of Public Libraries. The sum now payable out of that grant, had no part of it been paid, would be Nine Thousand pounds (£9,000); but, with a view to enable me to procure specimens of Library Books and establish a Depository of Books, Maps, and Apparatus, His Excellency has already directed Warrants to be issued in my favour to the amount of Two Thousand pounds, (£2,000.) The balance of the Grant has been left up to the present time in the hands of the Receiver General. But, as will be seen by my accompanying Circular to Township Councils‡ on the subject of School Libraries, I wish to include in my first apportionment the Library Grant of next year, as well as of the present, and of the two past years, I beg, therefore, that His Excellency will be pleased to include the amount of next year's grant in the sums now to be advanced—in all Nine thousand, five hundred pounds, (£9,500,) exclusive of the sums which has already been advanced.

5. It will require this sum, and all the credit I can command at the Bank, in order to provide the Library Books almost immediately required for Libraries—as I must pay for them at the time of purchase, and I can receive no money from the Municipalities for these Books until they are delivered; and I wish, with the least possible delay, to provide for as many Libraries as possible before the close of water navigation, in order that the people and youth of the Country may have the use of these Library Books during the approaching Winter Season.

6. As each Municipality must raise at least an equal sum with that apportioned by me from the Library Grant, in order to be entitled to its advantages, Library Books to the value of nearly, (if not more than,) Twenty thousand pounds. (£20,000,) must be procured, and distributed in the expenditure of the sum for which I beg that a Warrant may be issued in favour of the Cashier of the Bank of Upper Canada, subject to my orders.

EGERTON RYERSON.

TORONTO, 23rd of August, 1853.

(ENCLOSURE): GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA.

Adopted by the Council of Public Instruction on the Second of August, 1853. §

The Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada, as authorized by the Thirty-eighth Section of the School Act of 1850, makes the following Regulations for the Establishment and Management of Public School Libraries,—

1. There may be School Section Libraries, or Township Libraries, as each Township Municipality shall prefer. In the case of the establishment of a Township Library, the Town-

* See pages 203-215 of the Chief Superintendent's Annual Report for 1852. See also pages 97-99.

† See Section XLI of the Common School Act of 1850, on page 48 of the Ninth Volume of this Documentary History.

‡ See page 30 of this Volume.

§ The principles upon which the Book for these Public School Libraries were selected are fully explained on page 298 of the Tenth Volume of this Documentary History. In addition, Doctor Ryerson stated that, in establishing these Libraries, his object was:

1. The prevention of the expenditure of any part of the Library Fund in the purchase and circulation of Books, having a tendency to subvert public morals, or vitiate public taste.

2. The protection of the local parties against imposition by interested Book Vendors in regard to both the price and character of Books introduced into their Libraries.

3. The placing of the remotest Municipalities upon an equal footing with those adjoining the Metropolis, in regard to the terms and facilities of procuring Books.

4. The selection, procuring and rendering equally acceptable to all School Municipalities of the Land a large variety of attractive and instructive reading Books, and that upon the most economical and advantageous terms.

See the remarks in a Note of President Eliot of Harvard University on "Tons of ephemeral reading matter" which is generally circulated, and "which is neither good in form or substance." See page 294 of the Tenth Volume in this Documentary History.