

70 children, the School has been kept open during nine or twelve months; yet the former more populous and less working section received one third more money from the School Fund than the latter less populous, but more working and more deserving School Section. Besides, the object of the School Fund being to develop and aid, but not supersede, local exertion, this object is greatly contravened, when any basis not founded on exertion is adopted in the distribution of that fund; and therefore this principle of distributing the School Fund among the School Sections of a Township, was abandoned in the School Act of 1850, except in cases sanctioned by the Chief Superintendent of Schools, in order to make the transition to a better mode of distributing the School Fund as easy and fair as possible.

3. Now, there are two legal modes of distributing the School Fund among the School Sections, based upon exertion. The one mode is that which makes the *average* attendance of pupils at School the basis of distribution to each School, as provided for in the 1st clause of the 31st section of the Act of 1850. To the application of this provision of the Act, it has been objected that it is the average attendance of 1851, that determines the distribution of the School Fund for 1852, and so on; whereas each Teacher, (or year,) ought to receive the reward of his own labour. I think this objection is well founded; and therefore the 5th section of the Supplementary School Act, (just passed by the Legislature) requires "the Trustees of each School Section, on or before the 30th day of June and the 31st day of December in each year, to transmit to the Local Superintendent a correct return of the average attendance of pupils in the school or schools under their charge during the six months then immediately preceding; nor shall any School Section be entitled to share in the apportionment from the School Fund for the said six months, the Trustees and Teacher of which shall neglect to transmit a verified statement of such average attendance of pupils in their School or Schools." In order to enable Trustees and Teachers to comply with this provision of the Law, without delay or embarrassment, I have caused to be printed and transmitted to each of them, with their *Journal of Education* for June, a blank form of the return required, together with the needful directions for filling it up. Upon this return, which you will carefully examine and check, will be based your distribution, according to average attendance for the first half of the current year.*

4. But the 18th section of the Supplementary School Act provides another mode of distributing the School Fund among the School Sections of a Township. It enacts, "That for and notwithstanding any thing contained in the Upper Canada School Act of 1850, the Chief Superintendent of Schools shall have authority to direct the distribution of the Common School Fund in any Township among the several School Sections or parts of School Sections entitled to share in said Fund, according to the length of time in each year, during which the school shall have been kept open by a legally qualified Teacher in each of such sections or parts of sections." In the course of my visits to the several counties of

Upper Canada, last winter, I was assured by practical and experienced persons, that in some Townships, thinly settled School Sections could not complete with thickly settled ones in regard to the average attendance of pupils at school, but they could, if each school was aided according to the length of time the school is kept open by a qualified Teacher. To give the weak every facility possible to compete with the strong, this provision has been introduced into the Act; and it appears to me to be equitable, especially since the Supplementary School Act (13th section) *limits all rate-bills throughout Upper Canada, to one shilling and three pence per month, for each pupil attending school*, and leaves it with the school electors in each section, to decide whether they will even retain a rate-bill to that amount or not. It is therefore no longer in the power of short-sighted and selfish persons, to exclude any class of children from the schools, by imposing high rate-bills; and as the schools are now by the general law of the land, so nearly made free to all classes of children, it is most desirable to encourage the keeping of each school open, by a legally qualified Teacher, during as large a portion of the year as possible.

5. But I must request and authorise you to exercise your own discretion, aided by the advice of Councillors or other persons of experience in your neighborhood, as to which of these two modes you will adopt the present year in the distribution of the School Fund, to the schools under your superintendence. I must, however, remark that the two modes of distributing of the School Fund cannot both be adopted in any one Township; the one or the other mode must be adopted for all the schools in each Township, and be based upon either the *length of time* or *average attendance* reported in the semi-annual return of the Trustees.

6. As to Union School Sections, I have not been able to learn or devise any one general regulation that could be justly applied to to them all, without entailing upon the Trustees and other parties a great deal of trouble. Therefore, the 14th section of the Supplementary School Act provides "that the Local Superintendents of adjoining Townships shall have authority, and they are hereby required, to determine the sum or sums which shall be payable from the School apportionment and assessment of each Township in support of Schools of Union School Sections, consisting of portions of such Townships; and they shall determine the manner in which such sum or sums shall be paid; and in the event of one person being Local Superintendent of two or more Townships, he shall act in behalf of such Townships; and in the event of the Local Superintendents of Townships thus concerned not being able to agree as to the sum or sums to be paid to each such Township, the matter shall be referred to the Warden of the County or Union of Counties for final decision."

7. In regard to the apportionment to Separate Schools, the provisions of the 4th section of the Supplementary School Act, in connection with the 19th section of the School Act of 1850, are so explicit, that I need only observe that one-half of what a Separate School may be entitled to for the year, according to average attendance, should be paid at the end of the first half year, and the other half (more or less) should be paid at the end of the second half year—in each case after receiving the semi-annual return required by the *second* proviso in the 4th Section of the Supplementary Act, and on being satisfied of its accuracy. It is to be observed that Separate Schools are subject to the same inspections, visits, and regulations in regard to reports, &c., as are public Common Schools.

8. The Supplementary School Act provides for the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £500 per annum "in special aid of Com-

* The following extract from the *Journal of Education* for August, 1852, page 120, will serve to illustrate the principle upon which this distribution is based. "A Local Superintendent enquires:—One school is kept open six months of a year—three months in winter, and three months in summer—with an average attendance of forty pupils during each three months. Another school is kept open twelve months in a year—six months in winter and six months in summer—with an average attendance of forty pupils during each six months. Are both schools to receive alike? Or is the latter to receive twice the amount of the former, having performed twice the amount of labor?" "The answer is, the latter school is entitled to twice as large a sum as the former; the principle of the law being to help those that help themselves, and in proportion as they help themselves." See also my annual Report for 1851, pages 170-174.