

APPENDIX I.

PROVISIONS OF THE LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN UPPER CANADA.

"Township and County Libraries are becoming the crown and glory of the Institution of the Province."—*Lord Elgin at the Provincial Exhibition, Sept., 1854.*

1. Trustees of Rural School Sections.

The *twenty-seventh* section of the Consolidated Common School Act, (page 39), makes it the duty of Trustees * * * (19) To appoint a Librarian, and to take such steps authorized by law as they may judge expedient, for the establishment, safe keeping, and proper management of a school library in their section, whenever provision has been made and carried into effect for the establishment of school libraries.

2. Boards of School Trustees in Cities, Towns, and Villages.

The *seventy-ninth* section of the same act, (pages 47, 48), provides that "It shall be the duty of the Board of [Roman Catholic Separate] School Trustees of every city, town and village respectively. * * *

(7) To do whatever they may judge expedient * * * for establishing and maintaining school libraries. * * *

(15) * * * to appoint a librarian to take charge of school library or libraries when established.

3. Duties of School Authorities in regard to School Libraries.

It will also be seen from the above, that it is the official duty and privilege of Trustees to aid in the establishment of Public School Libraries.

Where trustees neglect to comply with the library regulations in maintaining the library provided for their section, they subject themselves to penalties, by the *twenty-third* and *thirty-first* sections of the Consolidated Common School Act of Upper Canada. The property of every public library is exempt from taxation.

4. General Principles on which Books have been selected for the Public Libraries.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Council of Public Instruction 2nd August, 1858.

The Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada deems it proper to state its principles of proceeding, in performing the important and responsible task of selecting books for these Public School Libraries:

1. The Council regards it as imperative, that no works of a licentious, vicious, or immoral tendency, and no works hostile to the Christian religion, should be admitted into the libraries.

2. Nor is it, in the opinion of the Council, compatible with the objects of the public school libraries, to introduce into them controversial works on theology, or works of denominational controversy; although it would not be desirable to exclude all historical and other works in which such topics are referred to and discussed; and it is desirable to include a selection of suitable works on the evidences of natural and revealed religion.

3. In regard to books on ecclesiastical history, the Council agrees in a selection from the most approved works on either side.

4. With these exceptions, and within these limitations it is the opinion of the Council that as wide a selection as possible should be made of useful and enter-

*For Library Regulations, see "Library Manual."