

3. CIRCULAR TO TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL SECTIONS IN UPPER CANADA, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1. By the Seventeenth clause of the Twelfth Section of the School Act of 1850, the Trustees of each School Section are authorized "to appoint a Librarian, and to take such steps as they may judge expedient, and as may be authorized according to law, for the establishment, safe-keeping and proper management of a School Library, whenever provision shall have been made and carried into effect for the establishment of School Libraries."

2. I beg to call your particular attention to the accompanying (foregoing) Circular to Township councils, and to the Regulations for the establishment of Public School Libraries, and also to the Catalogue of Books for these Libraries. In the Circular and Regulations, in connection with the above cited provisions of the School Law, you will not fail to observe the responsible duties which devolve upon you in giving effect to this new department of our System of Public Instruction; and I trust your feelings will fully respond to those duties and to the public expectations and interests in this vitally important work. This first Catalogue of Library Books shews the treasures of various and useful knowledge, which, with your co-operation and that of the Township Municipalities, may be made accessible to all the inhabitants and youth of Upper Canada.

3. I have only to add, that if any Township Council declines to act in the establishment of Public School Libraries, I shall be happy to hear from the Trustees of individual School Sections in such Township, in the terms of my Circular to Township Councils.

TORONTO August 3rd, 1853.

EGERTON RYERSON.

4. CIRCULAR TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TOWNSHIPS, CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND SCHOOL SECTIONS, NOTIFYING THE FIRST APPORTIONMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY GRANT.

1. The time having arrived for making the First Apportionment of the Legislative Grant for the establishment of School Libraries in Upper Canada, the Chief Superintendent of Education proceeds to explain the basis on which he proposes to make the Apportionment, and the manner in which he thinks, under the circumstances, it should be made.

2. After much consideration, and in harmony with the principle on which the School Fund in each Municipality is distributed, local exertion, (and not property, or population,) appears to be the most equitable basis of apportioning the Library Grants, and that which is likely to give the most general satisfaction and to exert the most beneficial influence. The principal of aiding each School Municipality, (whether it be a Township, City, Town, Village, or School Section), in proportion as it exerts and helps itself, is upon the whole, unobjectionable and best calculated to excite and bring into action that kind of interest and public spirit which are the life of any general system of social advancement. This, therefore, is the principle on which the Library Grant will be distributed.

3. As the amount to be apportioned to each Municipality,—whether a School Section, or Township,—it has been decided to add, in the first Apportionment, Seventy-five per cent. to all sums raised by local exertion,—thus apportioning Nine pounds to each such Corporation for every Twelve pounds, and Seventy-five pounds for every One hundred pounds raised in a Municipality, for School Libraries, and so on, in the same ratio for larger, or smaller, sums raised by local effort for that purpose. This is a larger apportionment than has been intimated in the Correspondence of the Department, and is ventured upon with some hesitation, from the apprehension of inability to continue it. So large an addition to the sums raised by local effort can only now be promised in the First Apportionment. Those Municipalities, therefore, which desire to have the Books during the ensuing Winter, will be supplied with them on payment of the amount of their apportionment, which they can transmit, (if possible before the fifteenth instant), by Check, Draft, or in bank bills, as may be most convenient.

4. The question next to be considered is, should the School Sections and other larger Municipalities, which have not yet acted upon the Circulars sent to them in the latter part of August, [pages 29-32.] or have not yet notified the sums they propose to apportionate for the establishment of Libraries, be excluded from the Apportionment of the Legislative Grant for that purpose? This was intended by the terms of the Circular referred to, and by the notice in the *Journal of Education* for October*. But the following objections and representations have been urged against such a decision in numerous Communications, which have been made to the Education Department. 1. The notice was too short for the people of many Townships and School Sections to consult and act upon it within the time prescribed. It is stated that the *Journal of Education*, containing the Circulars, Regulations, and Catalogues of Books for Libraries, sent out near the end of August, was not received until some time in September; the

*It is not necessary to repeat this notice here, as it was temporary and local in its application.