

imagination, thought and reflection, of as high an order as belong to the mass of their fellow-creatures.

8. It appears, by Returns before this House, that there are not less than one hundred and ninety-nine sufferers within this Province, for whose education there is not the slightest provision.

9. Your Committee, therefore, respectfully recommend, that steps should be taken to establish one or more Schools for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in the Province; and that, for this purpose, a sum of money should be granted to Her Majesty, in the same manner as for the Common Schools, to enable Her Majesty to pay an annual salary to one or more Teachers properly qualified for this duty, and to establish one or more Institutions where these unfortunate sufferers may be educated.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER MCLEAN, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM, House of Assembly, 10th January, 1840.

Note. It is gratifying to know that this request was not long afterwards complied with, and that a very commodious Edifice for the care and Education not only for the Deaf and Dumb but also for the Blind have been erected,—the one for the Deaf and Dumb (at Belleville), and for the Blind (at Brantford).

MUNIFICENT PARLIAMENTARY GRANT IN AID OF COMMON SCHOOLS IN 1841.

In passing the Common School Act of 1841, provision was made, (far beyond what was originally intended as the Common School Fund,) and a munificent sum, as compared with former grants, was set apart by the Common School Act of 1841 for "the support and maintenance of Common Schools in the United Province of Canada. The third section of that Act provided as follows:

That, for the Establishment, Maintenance and Support of Common Schools in this Province, there shall be granted to Her Majesty annually, during the continuance of this Act, the sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds Currency, (£50,000,) to be distributed among the several Districts in the manner hereinafter provided, and such aforesaid, from the said permanent fund, and of such further sum as may be required to complete the same, out of any unappropriated monies, which are now raised and levied, or which may hereafter be raised, and levied, by the authority of the Legislature, to and for the public uses of this Province: and the said annual grant shall be, and be called "The Common School Fund."

In 1841, just before the passing of this Common School Act, the Legislative grant in aid of Common Schools in Upper Canada was only Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds, (£5,650), given in two sums.

This new grant of Fifty Thousand pounds, (£50,000), was divided between Upper and Lower Canada according to population. For some years, the division was in the proportion of £30,000 to Lower Canada, and £20,000 to Upper Canada. Finally, after a long correspondence, Upper Canada received the larger share—the increase of her population having made it equitable to do so.

The peculiar circumstances, under which this then very large sum was set apart for Common Schools, are thus narrated by the Honourable Isaac Buchanan, in a Letter addressed to the Editor of the Documentary History of Education in Ontario in 1882. In that Letter, Mr. Buchanan said:

In 1830, I had, as an extra of the *Albion* newspaper, published by Mr. Cull, (about the time York became Toronto,) proposed a plan of settlement for the Clergy Reserves, fitted to solve the difficulties connected with them, whether Industrial, Educational, or Political. My proposal was that an educational tax should be levied, the payments by each Church, or Sect, being shown in separate columns, and each Sect receiving from the Clergy Reserve Fund, in the proportion of its payments for Education.

This first attempt of mine to get an endowment for Education failed, as there was then no system of Responsible Government. But five years afterwards (in 1840), when my election for Toronto had decided the question of Responsible Government, and before the first Parliament met, I spoke to Lord Sydenham, the Governor General, on the subject. He felt under considerable obligation to me for standing in the breach, when the Honourable Robert Baldwin found that he could not succeed in carrying Toronto. I told him that I felt sure that, if we were allowed to throw the Accounts of the Province into regular Books, we would show a surplus over expenditure. His Excellency agreed to my proposal, and I stipulated that, if we