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REASONS FOR HOLDING THESE SCHOOL CONVENTIONS.

In commencing his remarks, Dr. Ryerson said that: Before submitting to the Government a draft of a bill for the further improvement of the Public School Acts, he felt it to be his duty to hold these County Conventions for the purpose of ascertaining what were the deficiencies in the present law. He had taken a similar course before the passing of the Common School Law in 1850; also before the passing of the Supplementary Act in 1853, and before the establishment of Public School Libraries. Before laying the foundation of our present system of Public Instruction, he had visited every Country in which there was a regularly established system of education, in search of information. He regretted that the multiplicity of his labors precluded his visiting each portion of the Province more than once in five years. But before making any additional improvements in the present Public School Acts, he had thought it but fair to consult the country on a matter in which all were so deeply interested, and to embody in a bill the views of the principal educationists, as far as practicable.

TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE CONVENTIONS.

The chief object of these School Conventions, Dr. Ryerson said, was to consider the adaptation of the system of Public Instruction to the present more advanced state of education in Upper Canada, and to see how far that System might be improved. He also proceeded to explain the principles upon which our Common School system was based—each county, township, city, and village having the management of its own schools, irrespective of Government interference. The principles and practice of free government were thus brought home to each man's door. He further remarked that there were three subjects which he thought should engage the attention of the present meeting, viz.:

- The *first* related to the case of VAGRANT CHILDREN;
- The *second* embraced the subject of FREE SCHOOLS;
- The *third* referred to public GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

1ST.—EXPEDIENCY OF A TRUANT LAW FOR VAGRANT CHILDREN.

With regard to the first, two judges of the land had noticed in their charges to the juries the evils arising from vagrant children being allowed on the street. Men of the largest property in the country have admitted their readiness to be taxed for a system of Public Instruction; but they justly complained that those who most required education, were not

THE RECENT COUNTY SCHOOL CONVENTIONS IN UPPER CANADA.

In accordance with the circular from the Chief Superintendent of Education, published in this *Journal* for January, the several County School Conventions have been held, and the result has been most satisfactory and encouraging. The attendance generally was large, including persons from various parts of each County. The greatest interest and even enthusiasm were felt by those present, and a wish was repeatedly expressed that the official visits of the Chief Superintendent would be more frequent, so that by mutual conference and consultation, difficulties would be removed, objections answered, and all parties more closely united in the promotion of that great and patriotic object—the universal education of the people.

At each convention, the Chief Superintendent delivered an address, explanatory of the objects of his tour, as well as of the steps which had been taken by the Educational Department, since his last visit, to supply the wants, and to elevate the character and condition, of the Public Schools. The address also contained such practical suggestions and remarks as were deemed appropriate to the occasion. The substance of this address we give below.

The resolutions passed at the several meetings will be found on pages 36 to 41.