

# REPORT

Of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state of Education in Lower Canada, the working of the School Law, the efficiency of the Education Department in Lower Canada, and the means of rendering more effective the Legislative enactments adopted for the advancement of Education in Lower Canada; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

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## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Mr. SICOTTE, CHAIRMAN.

The Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL DRUMMOND,

The Hon. Mr. BADGLEY,

Mr. CARTIER,

Mr. POLETTE,

Mr. LACOSTE,

Mr. SANBORN,

Mr. CHAPAIS, and

Mr. CHRISTIE (of Gaspé).

With power to send for persons, papers, and records.

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The Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the School Laws, and the means of rendering more effective the Legislative enactments adopted for the advancement of Education in Lower Canada, have the honor to report:—

With the view of obtaining information calculated to shew the state of Elementary Education in Lower Canada, the Committee deemed it their duty to address a series of questions to all the *cures*, ministers of religion, and the Secretary-treasurers of the School Municipalities, touching facts, a knowledge of which might form the basis of statistics both impartial and important, from their exactness. The truth of the facts elicited by the investigation is guaranteed by the control of different authorities acting on the spot. Figures thus obtained have so much the greater value that they represent but generalized facts, which place the questions beyond the reach of idle discussion, or the reports of officers more or less interested, and whose statements are in nowise controlled by the contradiction of independent parties. Your Committee have thought that the duties imposed upon them were not to solicit dissertations on the advantages of education, but to examine in an unprejudiced manner whether the people received, under the operation of the law, that practical instruction adapted to the interests of society.

The information given has the more importance that it only establishes facts the authenticity of which is beyond doubt. The clergy, from its isolation, its independence and zeal, as well as its devotion to the cause of education, was of all bodies of society in the best position to see and judge correctly.