

Secretary, be referred to the Committee on Legislation to confer with the Council of Arts and Manufactures and the Government on the matter."

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned to meet on Friday, the 22nd of May next, or earlier on the call of the Chairman.

(Signed), ELSON I. REXFORD,  
*Secretary.*

#### OFFICIAL REPORT.

AYLMER, 29th July, 1890.

*Superintendent of Public Instruction.*

SIR,—I have the honor to submit for your consideration my report for the year ending the 30th June, 1890, on the condition and progress of the schools that come under my inspection in the counties of Ottawa and Pontiac.

In last year's report I mentioned the difficulty of giving from year to year much novelty or freshness to papers of this character. It is inevitable that they should exhibit more or less sameness, inasmuch as the same topics invariably suggest themselves, and remarkable features of interest are naturally rare in such rural districts as fall under my review.

But, despite my inability to offer new suggestions for the advancement of our primary schools, I shall attempt to speak frankly on such subjects as seem worthy of some notice, even at the risk of repeating what I have said on previous occasions. At all events, I shall not imitate the example of one of my predecessors, who, it is said, some thirty-five years ago, copied a Nova Scotia school report and forwarded it to the Department as his own.

Notwithstanding there is still room for improvement in the education of this province, I think on the whole we have much reason for congratulation. When I look back for a quarter of a century and compare the present state of the schools with what they were then! I am much encouraged, and look confidently to the future of elementary education in this country. The progressive element, in fact, has been decidedly marked during the past five years.

While we have not been able as yet to have normal training schools in each county, we have had, for the past four years, the advantage of annual teachers' institutes, conducted by practical and qualified persons. These institutes have already produced far better results than I possibly could have anticipated three years ago.

The institute held at Shawville, in the county of Pontiac, a short time ago, was conducted by Dr. Harper and Professor Parmelee, and was highly appreciated.

I think every teacher in the county of Pontiac was present on the occasion.