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**THE RECENT COUNTY SCHOOL CONVENTIONS IN UPPER CANADA.**

In accordance with the circular from the Chief Superintendent of Education, published in this *Journal* for December, 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 was felt by those present, at this official visit of the Chief Superintendent, as by this mutual conference and consultation, difficulties were removed, objections answered, and all parties more closely united in the promotion of that great and patriotic object—the education of the youth of Upper Canada.

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, and other information, we give below.

The resolutions passed at the several meetings will be given in our next number.

**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 Schools, he felt it to be his duty to hold these County Conventions for the purpose of dis-

ussing certain improvements in the machinery of the present law. He had taken a similar course before the passing of the Common School Law in 1850, before the establishment of Public School Libraries, before the passing of the Supplementary Act in 1853, and the School Law Amendment Act of 1860. 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 labours precluded his visiting each portion of the Province more than once in five years, and the present he expected to be his last official visit. But before making any additional improvements in the present Public School Law, 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, expressed at these conventions, as far as practicable.

**TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE CONVENTIONS.**

The chief object of these School Conventions, Dr. Ryerson said, was to consider the expediency of substituting Township Boards of Education for the present system of School Section Trustee Corporations in Upper Canada, and to see how far the School System itself might be further 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 Governmental 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. A fourth has also been suggested during the course of the tour.

The *first* would be, to consider any suggestions which may be made for the amendment of the School Law, for the improvement of the schools, for the diffusion of education, and for the extension and usefulness of prize books and public libraries.

The *second* would be, to consider, especially, whether or not it would be desirable to have one Board of School Trustees for each Township, as there is one Board of Trustees for each City, Town, and Incorporated Village in Upper Canada—thus putting an end to the trouble and disputes arising from School Section divisions and alterations, the election of Section Trustees, and the levying and collecting of School Section rates, &c., greatly simplifying the machinery of the School System, leaving