

Common School bill, which I have several times endeavoured to get passed through the Assembly. Several of my friends have expressed an opinion that the "machinery" of this bill is too Democratic, but with the securities afforded by the General and District Boards of Education, I beg leave to differ from them in opinion. I deem the provisions of this bill to be consistent with the authorities I have quoted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JAMES HOPKIRK, Esq.

*Secretary to the Commission of Investigation.*

M. BURWELL.

---

*Mr. Burwell's draft of a Bill for Common Schools.*

---

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN :

Whereas the laws now in force for the establishment, maintenance and regulation of common schools throughout this Province, are not found sufficient for the wants thereof. *Be it, &c.* That they be, and the same are hereby repealed.

2. *And be it, &c.* That for the maintenance and encouragement of Common Schools in each and every Township in this Province there shall be established a fund to be entitled "The Common School Fund" which said fund shall consist : First, of such sum or sums as the Legislature shall deem fit to appropriate annually for the same from the revenues of the Province : Secondly, of a sum equal in amount to the grant so made by the Legislature, to be raised by assessment, by order of the Quarter Sessions in their respective Districts, on the ratable property, in the same manner as other assessments are now raised, levied and collected : and thirdly, of such monies as may accrue from the selling or leasing of any lands which Her Majesty may be pleased to grant for the establishment, maintenance and support of Common Schools in this Province.

3. *And be it, &c.*—That for the establishment, maintenance and support of Common Schools in each and every District of this Province, there shall be granted to Her Majesty annually, during the continuance of this act, the sum of — pounds, to be distributed among the several Districts in the manner hereinafter provided, out of any monies which are now raised and levied, or which may hereafter be raised and levied by the authority of Parliament, to and for the uses of this Province.

4. *And be it, &c.*—That there shall continue to be a General Board of Education, to consist of not more than seven fit and discreet persons appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, of whom five shall be a quorum, whose duty it shall be to submit an annual report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or person administering the Government, on the actual state and condition of the Common Schools throughout the Province, the monies expended thereon, and from what sources derived, with plans for their improvement, and such other matters respecting schools and education generally, as to the said Board may seem useful and expedient, that the same may be laid before the Legislature at its annual meeting.

5. *And be it, &c.*—That the said general Board of Education, shall in each and every year, according to the last preceding census of the popula-