

pare annually statistics on education, to facilitate the working of the law ; to prepare modifications which might become necessary ; to decide finally all contestations and difficulties submitted to it by the local authorities and occurring between them and the Inspectors. This council ought to meet four times a year, at least, to examine the reports of the Inspectors and local authorities, and deliberate on the interests of education, in order to cause the obstacles to the working of the law to disappear without delay.

The local authorities ought only to be composed of men qualified, by at least an elementary education, and the number of Commissioners ought to be reduced to three.

Normal Schools ought to be opened without delay at Quebec and Montreal, for forming teachers for primary and secondary instruction. It is impossible to anticipate satisfactorily results from any system of primary instruction, if the persons who are called to give instruction are incapable and ignorant. It is the first thing to be done as most indispensable.

Protection ought to be accorded to the teachers for their salary, as well as respects the payment as the sufficiency. Assistance ought to be afforded in old age, to such as have been engaged in teaching for at least 30 years.

Uniformity in the books ought to be imperative, and strictly watched over.

The Council of instruction ought to designate the books to be studied, and be authorized to have them printed either here or abroad. An allowance ought to be made every year for the purpose.

The teaching ought to be methodical, universal, and as laid down in the orders issued by the council, or in the law.

Primary instruction ought to be divided into two categories, or degrees. There ought to be elementary instruction, and above that a secondary one, to serve as a mean, and as an intermission, as the Superintendent has observed, between primary instruction and the education afforded in our colleges.

The elementary instruction would have for its object the regular development of the faculties of man, by a teaching more or less extended of the usual branches of education which are indispensable to all men in society.

The secondary instruction would conduct the child to that point at which he might manifest a particular disposition for classical studies, properly speaking, or for a profession.

The allowance and support now granted by the state for the advancement of education is insufficient. The Committee entirely concur in the opinion of the Superintendent, that new funds ought to be voted. This support is for the interest of all parties, and for the advantage of all origins. The state ought to consider the instruction of the masses as the first want of society. When enormous sums are expended for less general purposes, and for objects of almost trifling importance, a mistaken economy ought not to be used, when the greatest and most universal interests are in question.

The Committee are desirous of preserving organization as the principle of the existing law ; in their recommendations and suggestions, they have had in view the perfection and improvement of the present order of things. The details ought to be so modified that without causing the disappearance of a known system, it would receive what is essential and what is wanting, a force of action independent of ill will and of opposition got up by apathy or by ignorance.

Your Committee are convinced that these modifications will ensure to the country serious, solid, practical, and useful instruction.

The whole, nevertheless, humbly submitted.

(Signed,)

L. V. SICOTTE,
Chairman.

Committee Room,
Quebec, 7th January, 1853.