

6th March, 1830.—Mr. Robert Baldwin, from the Select Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Western District School, presented a Report which was received and read as follows :

Report of the Select Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the District (Grammar) School of the Western District for 1828.

Committee : Messieurs Robert Baldwin, John Willson, George Hamilton, William Buell, junior, and Peter Perry.

To the Honourable the Commons House of Assembly in Provincial Parliament Assembled :

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the District Grammar School of the Western District, for the year 1828, having considered the subject matter of the said Report, and examined every person within their reach, whom they were given to understand could afford any information thereupon, have agreed to the following report, which they beg leave most respectfully to submit to the consideration of your Honourable House :

Your Committee find in the Report of the Trustees, an implied, rather than a direct recommendation, that the school be removed from Sandwich to some other part of the District, and this recommendation the Trustees seem to found upon two grounds, the first of which is : "That the people in the vicinity of that Town are principally composed of worthy but illiterate farmers, who are unable to appreciate the advantages of a liberal education, and consequently unwilling to have their children taught anything more than the first elements of learning."

With respect to this point, your Committee find, that Sandwich and its neighbourhood is principally inhabited by Canadians of French extraction, but the evidence will not warrant them in attributing to that portion of their fellow subjects, an indifference to the education of their children : should, however, such indifference actually exist among them, your Committee think it a strong reason for placing the District (Grammar) School as near their doors as possible, that such indifference, may as soon as possible be overcome.

The second ground upon which the Trustees found their recommendation, is the unhealthiness of the Town of Sandwich, which they say is now nearly depopulated from that cause.

In considering this part of the subject, your Committee necessarily turned attention to the enquiry : "What other part of the District would be a proper place to fix upon for the District (Grammar) School, should it be removed from its present situation ?"

It appears that an attempt was formerly made to have the School removed to Amherstburg ; such removal, however, your Committee, as at present advised, cannot recommend ; nor do they find that, from the evidence before them, they could satisfactorily name any other place in the District uniting so many advantages as the Town of Sandwich ; and they are far from finding that that town "is depopulated from the unhealthiness of its situation."

Your Committee, therefore, most respectfully submit it as their opinion, that the District (Grammar) School of the Western District be not removed from the Town of Sandwich.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

ROBERT BALDWIN,*
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
YORK, 5th March, 1830.

The witnesses examined by the Committee were :

The Honourable James Baby, a Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. John Gentle, late of Sandwich, now residing at York, Gentleman.

Peter McDougall, Esquire, Merchant, York.

Francis Baby, Esquire, Member of the House of Assembly, residing at Sandwich.

William McCormick, Esquire, residing near Amherstburg.

Thomas Hornor, Esquire, a Member of the House of Assembly, residing in the District of London.

John A. Wilkinson, Esquire, a Member of the House of Assembly, residing at Sandwich.

William Bercozy, Esquire, a Member of the House of Assembly, residing at Amherstburg.

In addition, the Reverend William Johnson, formerly Master of the District (Grammar) School at Amherstburg, and now Master of the one at Sandwich, submitted to the Committee, through Mr. Wilkinson, a letter detailing his school experience in both places.

* The subject of this report is not very important in itself, but the report is noteworthy as being the first of the late Honourable Robert Baldwin's parliamentary acts as Chairman of a Committee of the House of Assembly.