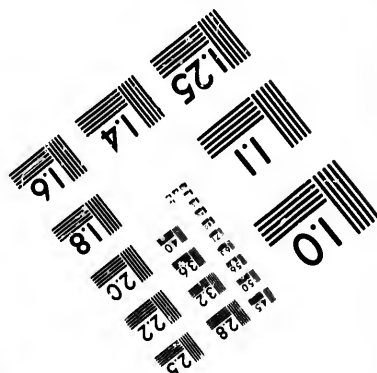
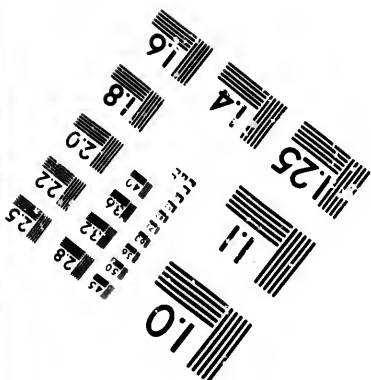
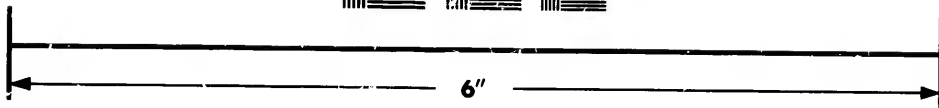
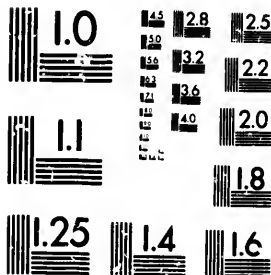


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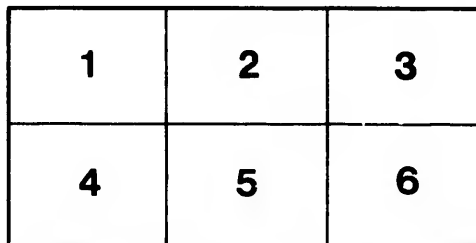
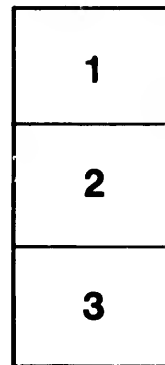
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, ONTARIO.

ACTS
OF THE
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
EXPLAINED AND VINDICATED.

"Error may travel far, while truth is putting on its boots."—*An eminent Statesman.*

"It is individual character that constitutes progress."—*Westminster Review.*

"It is greatness of soul alone that never grows old; nor is it wealth that delights in the latter stage of life, as some give out, so much as honour."—*Pericles' Funeral Oration, &c.*



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PREFATORY NOTE.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO :—

GENTLEMEN,

Preparing to resign the administration of the Education Department into other hands, I desire to lay before you, for your individual perusal and satisfaction, a full account of those appointments in the Department and of my official acts which have been animadverted upon in discussions in your Honourable House, and to vindicate myself from the censures of certain Members and of a portion of the public press. The following pages will, I trust, show that I have paid due respect to the Government, while I have sought to act in accordance with the wishes of the Representatives of the People, and to promote most economically and efficiently, to the best of my humble ability, the educational interests of my native country, of which you are now the chosen guardians,

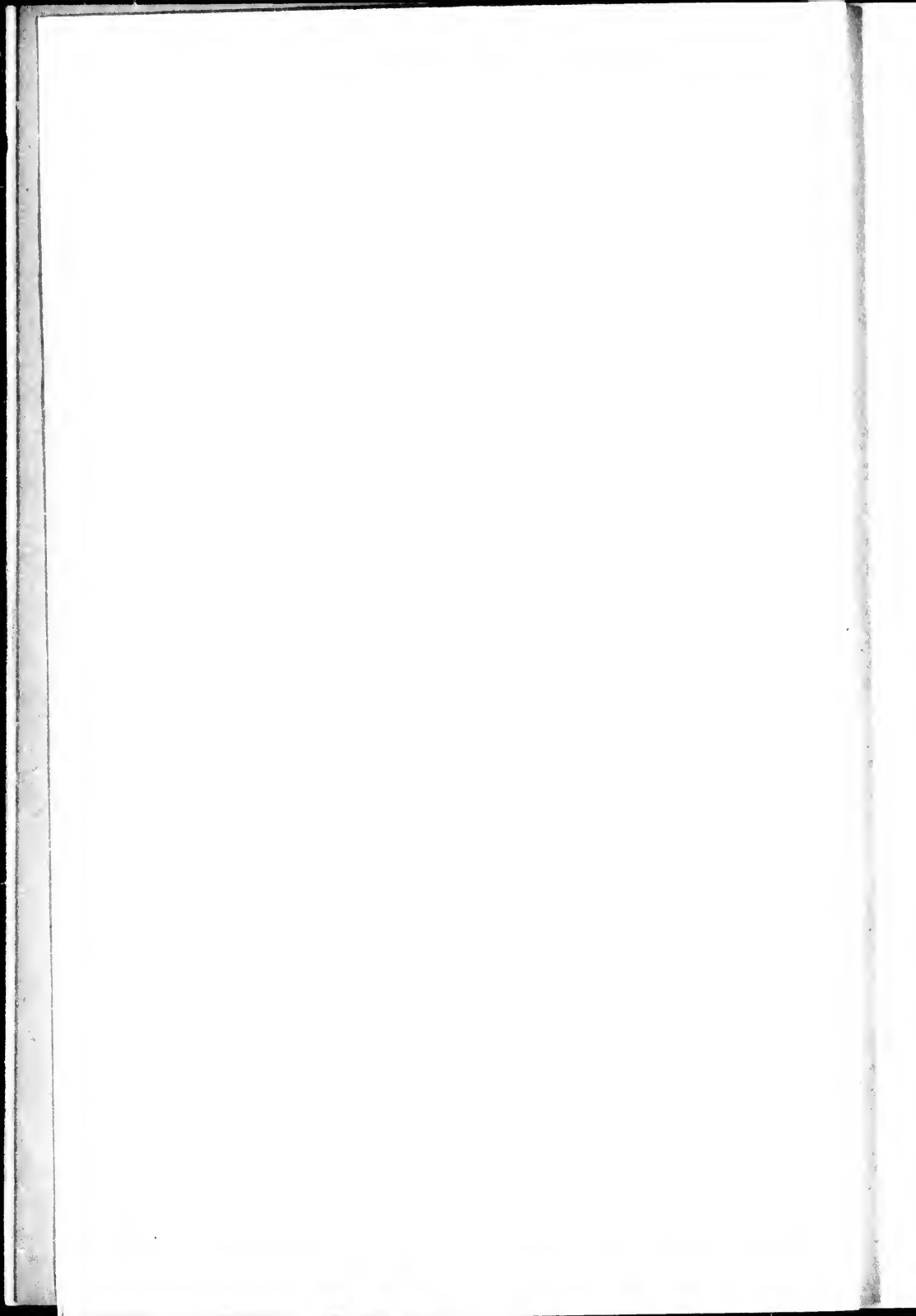
I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

E. RYERSON.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Toronto, 30th December, 1868.



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MEMORANDUM

By the Chief Superintendent of Education in Ontario, on the Salaries of Officers in the Department of Public Instruction, for the consideration of the Members of the Legislature.

Unfairness of the Attack on the Department—Reasons.

During the sitting of the Legislative Assembly on Friday, the 18th of December, fault was found with certain of my official acts, and I was censured, or rather attacked, by some Members in severe terms. I feel it therefore due to the Department over which I have so long presided, as well as to myself and all parties concerned, to offer the following public explanation and vindication of my proceedings in the matters referred to.

I think I have just reason to complain of the unfairness of the censure cast upon me under the circumstances. The House had appointed a Committee on Public Accounts. I had requested of the Chairman of that Committee, when the accounts of the Education Department were under consideration, to be permitted to go before that Committee to answer any questions, and give any explanations which might be required. But before any such opportunity has been afforded me, I have been censured in the House of Assembly in respect to those very accounts!

Furthermore, previously to the commencement of the Session, I had requested the appointment, by the House, of a Special Committee to examine into the state and working of the Education Department, thus courting and challenging enquiry. Such a Committee had been appointed; yet before it makes and reports the result of the enquiry prescribed and requested, I am blamed, in no measured terms in the House, in regard to the working of the Department.

I may regard the House of Assembly as the Judge and Jury to decide upon my official acts; but I submit to any member of that House, whether it is consonant with law or justice for a man to be condemned by any Judge or Juryman, not only without a trial, but without enquiry?

When I have done what no head of a Department ever before did in Upper Canada—asked for a Parliamentary enquiry into everything pertaining to my office—I submit that I had, at least, a right, as a matter of common justice between man and man, to the suspension of any censure in Parliament until the completion of that enquiry.

Before noticing the matters of imputation in the Legislative Assembly, I may remark that while the Education Department has been subject to the same responsibility and severe scrutiny as other Public Departments, it has been denied the position, and its subordinate officers have been denied the advantages enjoyed by the subordinate officers, of other Public Departments.

Correspondence with the Government on the Appointment and Salaries of Officers of the Department from 1855 to 1858.

I think it therefore best, in view of my proposed retirement from the Department, to present the whole case of its present officers from the beginning. I will first insert the letter of the Provincial Secretary, communicating the Governor's approval of certain appointments which I had temporarily made in the Department.

“SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

“Quebec, 4th July, 1855.

“REVEREND SIR,—His Excellency the Governor General has had under his consideration your letter of the 25th ultimo, submitting, for the approval of His Excellency, certain appointments in the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada, viz.:—John George Hodgins, Esquire, to be Deputy-Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada; Mr. Alexander Johnstone Williamson to be Clerk of Correspondence; Mr. Alexander Marling to be Clerk of Accounts; Messrs. Samuel P. May, Thomas C. Scoble, and Louis Gauthey, Clerks in the Map and Book Depositories; Patrick O'Neil to be Messenger.

“I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint you that His Excellency has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the above-named gentlemen, as recommended by you.

“His Excellency has been pleased, in terms of your suggestion, to direct that the appointment of Mr. Hodgins, as Deputy-Superintendent of Schools for Upper Canada, be published in the *Canada Gazette*.

“I have, &c.,
(Signed)

“GEO. ET. CARTIER,
“Secretary.

“The Reverend Dr. Ryerson, &c., &c.”

Mr. Thomas Hodgins had been previously appointed Senior Clerk, and his name does not therefore appear in the preceding appointments.

After the passing of the Civil Service Act, in 1857, I sought its application to the subordinate officers of the Educational Department equally with those of other Public Departments. My salary, being regulated by law, was not at that time equal to the salaries of other heads of Public Departments. I said nothing about that, but urged the claims of my assistants in the following letter:—

"EDUCATION OFFICE,
Toronto, 22nd July, 1857.

"SIR.—I have the honour to submit to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council, the following statement and recommendations in regard to the officers and clerks of this Department.

"The Act passed during the last Session of Parliament for improving the organization, and increasing the salaries of the officers and clerks connected with the political departments of the Government, provides, among other things, that the head of each Department shall, within thirty days, 'cause to be transmitted, to the office of the Executive Council, a return of the persons composing the staff of such Department, dividing them into classes, as hereinbefore provided, having respect to their relative ability and length of service.'

"It is true this is not a political department of the Government; but I submit, that in justice to the officers and clerks employed in it, they ought not, on that account, to be deprived of remuneration which has been considered by both the Government and Parliament to be but just to the subordinate officers of other public Departments, especially as the subordinate officers connected with this Department are not second to those of any other public Department in literary qualifications, or industry, or labour, and as the Department itself (though not political) is one of the most extensive, important and responsible in the country.

"But in addition to this general ground, I beg to offer some special reasons in support of the principal recommendations I have the honour to submit.

"In regard to the Deputy-Superintendent, (J. George Hodgins, Esq., M.A.) he has been connected with this office since October of 1864, nearly thirteen years. I selected and nominated him for what I believed to be his aptitude and qualifications for an assistant in the work I had undertaken; and after he had given satisfactory proof of such aptitude and qualifications, he, on my recommendation, relinquished his salary for one year, went home to Dublin at his own expense, and devoted a year to a careful study of the whole mode of conducting the system of education in Ireland, in all the details of each of the seven branches of the great Education Office in Dublin, and returned to Canada with the highest testimonials of the Irish National Board of Education. And it is to Mr. Hodgins' talents as a departmental officer, his thorough business habits, great industry, and cordial co-operation that the country is in no small degree indebted for the completeness and perfection of detail that I have been enabled to introduce into every branch of this complicated Department. Mr. Hodgins has also had charge of the Department during my absences (sometimes protracted), has done so very efficiently, but has never received any remuneration

for such additional labour and responsibility. I submit, therefore, that his qualifications, duties, long and faithful services, entitle him to equal remuneration with the deputies of other departments—that is, to an increase of his salary from £450 to £600.

“The first Clerk, Thomas Hodgins, A.B., has been in the office since 1848, and has evinced talents of a high order, especially in the branch in which he is employed, examining all financial and statistical returns, and preparing my statistical reports, together with the entry and summary record of all letters, &c. His legal knowledge (he being nearly eligible for admission as barrister-at-law) is a great convenience, and very useful to me. His present salary is £280; under the new Civil Service Act, he would be entitled to £400.

“Mr. A. Marling has, during the last three years, been Accountant and Book-keeper, and discharged his duties most faithfully, and with singular ability—the accounts amounting in the aggregate to nearly £100,000 per annum, and embracing a variety of separate branches, and sums from a few pence up to hundreds of pounds. The salary of the Book-keeper or Accountant in each of the other Departments is £400. Mr. Marling's salary has been but £200. I submit that his salary should at least be £300, with the rank of a clerk of the first-class.

“Mr. A. J. Williamson, an elderly gentleman, a most expert and accurate clerk of correspondence (with other duties), is proposed to rank as clerk of the second class, his present salary of £175 to be made £225.

Mr. S. P. May, a Naturalist, having prepared and arranged the specimens of Natural History in this Department, as he did two or three years since for the Natural History Society of Quebec—a most excellent Clerk of the Libraries, and a very useful man in the Department. It is proposed that he shall rank as a Clerk of the second class, and that his present salary of £200 shall be £225.

“It is also proposed that Mr. F. J. Taylor, Assistant Clerk of Statistics, shall rank as Clerk of the third class, with his present salary of £150; and that Mr. H. Butterworth, Map and Apparatus Depository Clerk, rank as Clerk of the fourth class—his present salary of £75 to be made £125. [Mr. Butterworth died four years subsequently, in December, 1861].

“I beg to add, that not one of the officers or clerks above named has been appointed without a trial of six months, and without exhibiting peculiar qualifications and fitness for the work assigned him.

“In no branch of the public service is diligence and fidelity of more direct importance to the country than in this Department; and in order to that, it is of the utmost consequence that the officers and clerks employed in it should feel that their services are not less considered and remunerated than officers and clerks of the same standing in other departments.

“The aggregate increase in the salaries of the whole seven officers and clerks in the Department above mentioned is only £495—a small

sum for the country at large, but a matter of very serious importance to a class of meritorious public servants.

"I have, &c.,

(Signed) "E. RYERSON.

"The Hon. T. Lee Terrill, M. P., Secretary of the Province."

To the foregoing letter I received the following reply:—

"SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

"Toronto, 13th October, 1857.

"REVEREND SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Administrator of the Government has had under his consideration in Council your letter of the 24th July last, recommending certain increases to the salaries of the various employés in the office of the Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada.

"His Excellency having given full consideration to the reasons set forth by you, in favour of the recommendations submitted in your communication, is of opinion that, inasmuch as the Civil Service Bill (the principles of which you invoke) applies only to the Executive Departments of the Government, enumerated in the schedules appended thereto, the scale of salaries fixed by that Bill may, by analogy only, but not otherwise, furnish a rule whereby to regulate the salaries of certain of the Clerks of your Department.

"In considering, therefore, the addition proposed by you to be made to the salary of the Deputy Superintendent, His Excellency, having in view the fact that you, as Head of the Department of Education, do not, either in position or salary, occupy the same status as the political heads of the various political offices, cannot recognize any claim on the part of the Deputy Superintendent to hold the same position as the Assistants of those officers.

"His Excellency has, however, been pleased to direct that the salary of the Deputy Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada be fixed at £500 per annum; and that the salaries of the Clerks in the Department of Education be fixed at the following rates, which are within the limits assigned by the Civil Service Act to those of the same grades in the branches of the Civil Service to which the Act applies:—

Chief Clerk (Thomas Hodgins).....	£300	per annum.
Accountant (A. Marling).....	250	"
Clerk of Correspondence (A. J. Williamson)	225	"
Clerk of Libraries (S. P. May).....	225	"
Assistant Clerk of Statistics (F. J. Taylor)...	150	"
Clerk (H. Butterworth).....	125	"

"The above rates are to take effect from the 1st July last.

"His Excellency has further been pleased to direct that Mr. J. G.

Hodgins, the present Deputy Superintendent of Education, be allowed from the 1st July last, in addition to his salary of £500, the sum of £50 per annum, during his tenure of that office, in consideration of his long and laborious services, connected with the establishment of a new Department.

"I have, etc.,
(Signed)

"E. A. MEREDITH,
"Assistant Secretary.

"The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, &c."

In 1858, Mr. Thomas Hodgins tendered his resignation, and the following letter, with the reply thereto, shews the terms in which that resignation was accepted, and Mr. T. Hodgins' place supplied, without the appointment of any additional clerk—Mr. Marling retaining his place, and succeeding to that of Mr. T. Hodgins—certain other clerks being advanced a step, but no new clerk appointed—thus saving the salary of one clerk.

"EDUCATION OFFICE,

"Toronto, June 1st, 1858.

"SIR,—I have the honour to state for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that Thomas Hodgins, Esq., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, has resigned his office of Senior Clerk in this Department, with the intention of devoting himself to the profession of the law. I hereto append a copy of Mr. T. Hodgins' letter of resignation, and recommend its acceptance, to take effect the 30th instant.

"It will be seen that Mr. Hodgins has been in this Department ten years, during which time he has distinguished himself no less by his urbanity and diligence and ability in the discharge of his official duties, than by his industry and success in his private studies. I have no doubt an honourable and successful professional career awaits him, if his life be spared. Considering Mr. T. Hodgins' long, diligent and most efficient services in this department, and his great merits as a young man just entering upon a new career of life, without any means but his energy and talents, I would respectfully recommend to the favourable consideration of His Excellency in Council, that he be granted the sum of fifty pounds on his retirement from office.

"In consequence of the retirement of Mr. Thomas Hodgins I propose the following appointments in the Department, viz. :—

"Alexander Marling, Esq., (Clerk of Accounts) to be Senior Clerk and Accountant.

"F. J. Taylor, Esq., (now Assistant Clerk of Statistics) to be Clerk of Statistics.

"Mr. Herbert Butterworth, (now a Clerk in the Map and Book Depository) to be Assistant Clerk of Statistics.

"I do not propose at present to recommend any appointment in the

place of Mr. Butterworth, but intend to try a young lad who has been in the Depository in a subordinate capacity.

"I have, &c.,
(Signed)

"E. RYERSON.

"Hon. T. J. J. Loranger, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary."

The following answer was received to the foregoing letter :—

"SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 2nd July, 1858.

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you, with reference to my letter [of acknowledgment only] of the 4th ultimo, that His Excellency the Governor General has had under his consideration in Council, your communication of the 1st June, announcing the resignation by Mr. Thomas Hodgins of his situation as Senior Clerk in the Education Office, and recommending that in consideration of the length and efficiency of that gentleman's services he be allowed a gratuity of £50. His Excellency has been pleased to approve of your recommendation, and to authorize you to pay Mr. Hodgins the sum in question out of the Education Fund for Upper Canada.

"His Excellency has further been pleased to approve of the appointments which you propose to make in the Department in consequence of Mr. Hodgins' retirement.

"I have, &c.,
(Signed)

"T. J. J. LORANGER,
"Secretary.

"The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, &c., &c."

Unjust and unreasonable policy towards Subordinate Officers in the Education Department—Renewed Application on their behalf in 1859–1861.

I made no reply to the letter of the Provincial Secretary, dated 13th October, 1857. I cared not a fig for the reference to the inferiority of my own position. I was satisfied the country would estimate that according to its worth and work, but I felt keenly the illogical and unjust reasoning and conclusions against the just recommendations which I had made, and the false position in which it placed me in reference to my assistants—they being denied, on my account, what was allowed to the corresponding officers of other public departments—simply because I was not a party politician, though I was doing what no party politician could have done in behalf of the whole country without reference to party.

I never conversed with an Upper Canada Member of the Government who did not acknowledge the justice of the claims which I advanced, but excused the non-recognition of them upon the ground that, if admitted, the same thing would have to be done for the employes in the Education Office of Lower Canada, which was always in advance of its appropriations, and the expenses of which were greater than those of the Education Office of Upper Canada. I maintained that while there was always a balance on hand of Upper Canada school moneys, and the expenses of the office kept down, those whose industry and skill had enabled me to do so, should be rewarded, rather than punished, for such labours. Without any reference to what had been asked and refused in 1857, I renewed my application in 1859, in the following letter :—

“ EDUCATION OFFICE, .

“ *Toronto, July 5th, 1859.*

“ SIR,—In the Session of 1857, the Legislature passed a Civil Service Act, prescribing certain salaries to the Deputies and Clerks in the several Departments, and certain increase of salaries according to the period of service ; and I beg most respectfully to submit to the Governor in Council that the subordinate officers in the Education Office may be placed upon the same footing as are the subordinate officers in other public offices. Both classes of officers, with very few exceptions, were appointed before the passing of the Civil Service Act, and, of course, upon the same terms ; and why the one class of officers, any more than the other, should be excluded from the benefits of that Act is difficult to be conceived. It is calculated to excite painful and discouraging feelings in the officers of the Educational branch of the public service to be placed in a relation less favourable than those employed in other branches. I am sure the subordinate officers in this Department are second to no corresponding officers in other Departments, in their qualifications, and industry and zeal for the public interests ; and I submit, therefore, the justice and expediency of placing them upon an equal footing with the same class of officers in other branches of the public service.

“ The aggregate amount involved in the arrangement proposed is only £310, a small sum for the whole country, but important to the five officers affected by it, and still more important in an equitable and public point of view.

“ I have, etc.,

(Signed)

“ E. RYERSON.

“ The Honourable Charles Alleyne, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary.”

Not even the receipt of the foregoing letter was acknowledged !

Being at the seat of Government in the spring of 1861, I presented my case again to the Upper Canada members of the Government, laying before them a memorandum of the nature and grounds of my recom-

mendations. I received such assurances from the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, that at their suggestion I addressed to the Provincial Secretary another letter, which I insert as follows, omitting the memorandum which accompanied it :—

“ *Quebec, April 17th, 1861.* ”

“ SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement and memorandum on the subject of salaries of the Deputy-Superintendent and other subordinate officers in the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada.

“ I have conferred with the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals for Upper Canada on the subject, and in accordance with their suggestion, I now transmit the papers relating to it to you, for the favourable consideration of His Excellency in Council.

“ I may observe that the subordinate officers in the Education Office of Upper Canada feel that they have not been treated with the same consideration as the subordinate officers in other Departments, who have received gratuities at different times, whereas the subordinate officers in the Education Department had only an increase of salary in 1855 ; and then their salaries were not made equal to those of corresponding subordinate officers of other Departments.

“ For the fullest information in regard to the merits and claims of Mr. Hodgins, Deputy-Superintendent, I refer to my letter of the 23rd February, 1857.

“ No language that I can employ would be too strong in commendation of Mr. Marling, the Book-keeper, Accountant, and Senior Clerk in the Department.

“ But I refer to the accompanying memorandum for a statement of the grounds on which each of the recommendations has been made.

“ I have, etc.,

(Signed)

“ E. RYERSON.

“ The Honourable Charles Alleyne, M.P.P.,

“ Provincial Secretary.”

The only answer ever received to the foregoing letter was the following acknowledgment of its reception :—

“ SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

“ *Quebec, 22nd April, 1861.* ”

“ REVEREND SIR,—I have had the honour to receive and lay before His Excellency the Governor General, your letter of the 17th instant, covering a statement and memorandum on the subject of the salaries of certain of the officers of the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada.

“ I have, etc.,

(Signed)

“ C. ALLEYN,

“ *Secretary.* ”

“ The Rev. E. Ryerson, &c., &c.”

Continued Injustice to the Education Officers compared with those in other Public Departments—Their Zeal and Fidelity Unimpaired

It will probably be remarked that the widow of the gospel parable was not more importunate in her pleadings with the unjust judge than I was in behalf of the subordinate officers of my Department; but the judge before whom I pleaded would not yield even to a five years' importunity. I could offer no promise of past or future political party service in behalf of those whose meritorious services I urged; I could only say they had served the country with great faithfulness and ability without respect to party; but my pleadings could not extract £310 per annum in behalf of five able and industrious men in the non-political Department of Education, while larger salaries, and repeated increase of salaries, and extra allowances were made for the subordinate officers of political departments.*

It might be naturally supposed that the subordinate officers of the Education Department, under such circumstances, would wish to be rid of a head whose non-political position deprived them of what a political head would have secured to them, and that they would discharge their duties with reluctance and indifference. But it was otherwise. They sustained me as unanimously and cordially as if I had succeeded in my efforts in their behalf, and the work of the Department was done as if it were their own. The office hours were made (not by me) from nine until five, instead of until four, as in other public offices; and the clerks often remained until late hours of the night at pressing times and seasons, and without a farthing's increase of salary or extra allowance, from 1857 to 1864. While I have endeavoured to be to all

*With respect to allowances for extra Clerks and extra services in other Public Departments, the last printed Public Accounts of the Province of Canada, (year ending 30th June, 1867) show, among others, the following items:—

1. In the <i>Governor's Secretary's Office</i> , the Office keeper received an additional allowance.....	\$69
5 Extra clerks and messenger received.....	3,500
2. In the <i>Provincial Registrar's Office</i> , 9 extra clerks received.....	6,000
3. In the <i>Finance Department</i> , 3 extra clerks received.....	\$500
And a Crown Land Department Clerk for special services in Finance Department.....	200
The Book-Keeper in the Audit Office, received for extra services.....	600
And 2 of the Clerks for same.....	138
2 Extra Clerks, Audit Office.....	230
	\$1,668
4. In the <i>Receiver General's Department</i> , an extra clerk received.....	270
5. In the <i>Public Works Department</i> , 2 extra clerks received.....	300
6. In <i>Crown Law Department West</i> , 2 extra clerks and a messenger.....	1,300
7. In the <i>Department of Agriculture</i> , 8 extra clerks received.....	4,500
And one as Acting Deputy at the rate of \$200.....	83
8. In the <i>Crown Lands Department</i> , 10 extra clerks received.....	2,100
And 9 clerks on the staff received for special services.....	1,300

It further appears that the Assistant Provincial Secretary received [and had received for years] \$1,000 as Prison Inspector, and a clerk in the Secretary's Office at a salary of \$1,400, received \$400 as clerk to the Prison Inspectors, and \$200 as clerk to the Civil Service Examiners.

associated with me in the Department and its Schools as a father and friend, as well as director, they have laboured with me, not as hirelings or eye-servants, but as affectionate and faithful sons, having a personal and patriotic interest in the work, and a common credit for its success.

From 1857 to 1864, the work of the Education Office proper greatly increased, and that of the Depository Department, in its three branches, especially the apparatus and prize book branches, more than doubled—thus causing a vast increase of labour in correspondence, procuring, getting manufactured, selecting and despatching books and various articles of school apparatus, receiving and making payments, keeping accounts, &c., &c., &c., in connexion with the Depository, apart from the Education Office itself. It is needless to say how the oversight of this work and the accounts of it added to the duties heretofore discharged by the Deputy Superintendent and Accountant, apart from the increase of labour on the part of those who assisted them.

When at the end of 1863 (several years after its establishment), I found that the Depository Department of the establishment, having succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations, was not only self-sustaining (and therefore not costing the public revenue or school fund a sixpence beyond the apportionment of one hundred per cent. to the municipal and school authorities on the purchases made by them), but that a sufficient surplus had accrued on the small percentage added to the original cost of the articles to cover the expenses of transportation, exchange and management, I felt that those whose labours had most contributed to such a result were justly entitled to some compensation; I therefore determined to allow Mr. Hodgins and Mr. Marling £100 each, and Mr. Taylor £50, making his salary £300. For these additional allowances to the salaries heretofore paid I gave cheques, upon the condition that if they were disallowed by the Government, they should be refunded. I sent my accounts, including these payments (with the proper explanations), to the Audit Office at Ottawa, and never heard a word of objection to them until the last session of the Legislative Assembly at Toronto.

Cause of Misapprehensions and Illustrations of the Injustice done to the Education Department Compared with others.

I believe the misapprehensions and imputations upon me in respect to those payments have arisen, in part at least, from the manner in which the public accounts have been published in past years at Ottawa. In those accounts will be seen the details of the expenditures of all the Public Departments, except the Education Department of Upper Canada. Any extra allowance or sum, even the smallest, which was paid to any clerk or servant in any other Public Department, will be found in the printed public accounts; but under the head of the Educa-

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tion Department of Upper Canada, the original salaries of its officers are stated, and then, instead of giving the details of contingent expenditures, as in the case of other Departments, the names and details, as I had transmitted them, were withheld, and the whole was given in one sum.

Correspondence with the Ontario Government on the New Scale of Salaries to Officers of the Education Department.

Down to the end of 1867, I had only to do with the Government at Ottawa in my receipts, payments and accounts. The 15th of January of the present year, I received from the Provincial Treasurer the note, of which the following is a copy :—

“TREASURY DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,

“*Toronto, January 15th, 1868.*

“SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that in future the salaries of your Department will be paid monthly, by pay-lists as formerly. But instead of sending them to the Bank you will please transmit them to this Department, where a cheque will be issued for the amount.

“I have, etc.,

(Signed)

“E. B. WOOD,

“*Treasurer.*

“Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Chief Supt. Education.”

On the 27th of the same month I transmitted the following reply :—

“EDUCATION OFFICE,

“*Toronto, 27th January, 1868.*

“SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th January, and now enclose pay-list for the current month, duly signed.

“If not inconvenient to your Department, you would oblige by issuing the monthly cheque a day or two before the close of the month, so that the salaries may be available on the last day.

“I append a detailed statement of the estimate of \$14,700, salaries and contingencies of the Department for 1868, which was sent in to you on the 15th of January. The total estimate is the same as in 1866-7; but the amount set down for office contingencies has been reduced, part of the sums formerly placed under that head being now more properly charged to the Depository Branch, and a proportionate amount chargeable for salaries against the contingencies and Depository, being now more properly added to the monthly pay-list.

"DETAILED STATEMENT of the Estimate for \$14,700, Salaries and Contingencies, Department of Public Instruction for Ontario, 1868 :—

Chief Superintendent.....	\$4600 00
Deputy "	2600 00
Chief Clerk and Accountant.....	1800 00
Clerk of Statistics.....	1200 00
Clerk of Correspondence.....	900 00
Assistant Clerk of Statistics.....	800 00
Assistant Clerk of Correspondence.....	500 00
Office Messenger and Caretaker.....	420 00
Office Contingencies.....	2480 00

Total (as in 1866-7).....\$14,700 00

" Say, fourteen thousand, seven hundred dollars.

"I have, etc.,

(Signed)

" E. RYERSON.

"The Honourable E. B. Wood, M.P.P.,

"Secretary of the Province."

Two days afterwards, I received the following answer to the foregoing letter :—

" TREASURY DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,

" Toronto, January 29th, 1868.

" SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, enclosing the pay-list of your Department for the month of January.

"I have passed the pay-list and sent for warrant. As soon as I receive it a cheque will issue and you will be notified.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

" E. B. WOOD,

" Treasurer.

" Rev. E. Ryerson, D.D., LL.D.,

" Chief Superintendent."

It will be seen by my preceding letter of the 27th January, that so far from practising any "deception,"—as one member of the House is reported to have charged me—I informed the Provincial Treasurer in my first communication to him on the subject, that I had paid the salaries in question from different sources, but that I proposed, under the new system, to put down the salary of each officer in one sum, and pay it from one source. I supposed from the answer received that my recommendation had been adopted, and knew not otherwise until I read the reports of the debate in the Legislative Assembly, on the 18th February. I immediately wrote the following letter to the Attorney General, which he read to the House of Assembly :—

"EDUCATION OFFICE,

"Toronto, February 19th, 1868.

"SIR,—I observe by this morning's papers that exception was taken last night in the Legislative Assembly to the estimate for the Educational Department.

"I beg to say that the explanation of the reasons of any change in the Estimates from former years was transmitted with the Estimates. But I desire here to give a more full explanation, which I hope you will have the kindness to have read to the House, as I think it is due to one of the largest and most difficult departments of the public service, and as I have had the charge of it nearly a quarter of a century.

"1. Though the whole estimate for Grammar and Common School Education is stated at \$301,500, the whole of that sum is provided by statutes, except \$125,377—which requires the vote of the House.

"2. The contingent expenses of this Department have undergone no increase during the last ten years, though the work has greatly increased. But, improved modes and facilities of doing the work have been devised, so as to prevent any increase in the average contingent expenses of the department. Some variations have arisen from having to make considerable repairs in the buildings, and print large editions of School Registers, Acts, etc. While there has been a large increase in the expenses of every other public department, there has been no increase in this department. The estimate of the salaries and expenses for the current year is some three hundred dollars less than in 1857; and the contingent expenses, apart from salaries, are more than one-half less than they were in any one year from 1853 to 1857 inclusive, and less than they have been any year from that time to this. And any increase which has been made in clerks' salaries has been saved by a reduction of contingencies, so that the aggregate expenses of the Department have not been increased during the last ten years.

"3. I may also observe that the Depository Branch of the Department is not a farthing's charge to the public revenue or school fund, the whole expense of it being included in the cost of apparatus and books supplied.

"4. The salaries of certain officers of this Department, as estimate for the year, not agreeing with those stated in the Treasurer's account for the last half of 1867, was pointed out in the letter transmitting the estimate, and is as follows:—The account in question does not include that portion of the salaries paid in past years out of the Depository Fund and office contingencies, according to the work done in each branch of the office. In making the estimate under the new system, I thought it best to place these items, paid from different sources, in one sum, so that the salaries of the respective officers should be fully exhibited. In doing so, no increase to the sum expended last and previous years has been asked, as the account for contingencies has been

proportionably reduced, and the total vote for salaries and contingencies is the same as in 1866-7. I know not how I can manage the Department more economically than I have done.

"5. The salaries are the same in amount as formerly, with the exception of two junior clerks. Mr. Atkinson, the Assistant Clerk of Correspondence (an excellent penman), hitherto paid out of the contingencies at \$380, and having served five years, is placed on the permanent staff at \$500. Mr. John T. R. Stinson, Assistant Clerk of Statistics, after an apprenticeship and nine years' efficient service in the office, instead of \$500, is placed at \$800. I think it but due to Mr. Stinson to say that he has fully earned this consideration; for besides serving faithfully and efficiently in the office, he was Lieutenant in the 7th Company of the "Queen's Own," and commanded it at the battle of Ridgway (accompanied by eight other employes of the Department, one of whom was killed), and he has since been appointed Captain for his gallant conduct and ability.

"6. It may be mentioned that one of the two senior officers in this Department has served upwards of twenty-three years; that the next three senior officers have served 16, 14, and 12 years, and that in the estimate, no increase of their salaries is proposed.

"7. It is perhaps just for me to add that the last published accounts show that the Lower Canada Department of Education expended for salaries and contingencies \$16,113 with 3826 schools, while my estimate is \$14,700 with 4457 schools, and other agencies for the diffusion of useful knowledge which do not exist in connection with the Department of Public Instruction in Lower Canada.

"8. I should be thankful if any members of the Government and of the Legislature would visit the Department, when every account, work, and mode of procedure will be shown and fully explained to them; nor do I desire to retain a single feature of the Department, or incur a single expenditure which shall not be deemed useful and necessary, after the most careful enquiry, by the representatives of the people.

"I have, etc.,
(Signed)

"E. RYERSON.

"The Honourable J. S. Macdonald,
"Attorney-General."

I supposed from the reading of the preceding letter in the House, and the expressions of approbation with which parts of it were received, and the absence of one word of objection, that my recommendations and explanations were considered satisfactory; and I knew not to the contrary until a few days afterwards, when I saw the printed Supply Bill, and subsequently received a letter from the Provincial Treasurer, dated 2nd March, directing a revision of the pay-list, as I had communicated it in my letter of the 27th January; and a return to the old method of

payment. In my reply, dated the 7th March, I transmitted a revised monthly pay-list of salaries as desired, and appended a memorandum of the payments which would be required under the head of contingencies, "till another Order in Council is passed," among the items of which are those remarked upon in the House of Assembly, and which I have paid monthly during the past year, as I had done the three preceding years, transmitting each month the proper vouchers, and not receiving a word of objection. I am sure the Premier will bear me witness that I have, since the last Session of the Legislature, repeatedly solicited of him an appointment to meet the Honourable Members of the Executive Council to settle the question of salaries of subordinate officers of my Department, in order that I might pay the salary of each of them in one sum and from one source, and not in different sums and from different sources as I was doing. But the matter was deferred from time to time from various circumstances, until since the commencement of the present Session, when I was given to understand that the question of Mr. Hodgins' salary would be satisfactorily arranged; the day after which I informed the Premier that, after what he had intimated to me the day before, I now felt free to submit to him what I had long revolved in my own mind, but had hinted to no one—namely, the creation of the Educational Department into a Ministry of Public Instruction, under the control of a responsible Minister of the Crown, and my own retirement from its administration.

I have thus given a succinct and documentary history of the appointments, salaries, and allowances of subordinate officers of my Department since 1855.

Salaries Recommended—Reasons for the Recommendation—Illustrations.

I will next state the salaries which I have recommended, on which I have so long insisted, and the grounds of my recommendation.

The only two public Departments now existing in this Province which can be compared with each other in duration and magnitude, are the Crown Lands and Education Departments. I believe the Deputies of these two Departments have been in the public service longer than any other two officers of the public Departments. Mr. Hodgins has been in the office upwards of *twenty-four years*. Mr. Russell, the excellent Deputy of the Crown Lands Department, has been in the office as long, and perhaps longer, as he is an older man. My proposal is, that the Deputies and Accountants, or Book-keepers of the Education and Crown Lands Departments shall have the same salaries—it being assumed that their qualifications, duties and responsibilities are equal. I believe there is no dispute or difference as to what shall be allowed to the other subordinate officers of the Education Department. The whole of the discussion has arisen as to the salaries and allowances paid to

the Deputy Superintendent and the Senior Clerk and Accountant of the Education Department. They are both graduates in the Law Faculty of the University, are both members of the Law Society, are both eligible for examination and admission as Barristers-at-Law, and both, I have reason to believe, would have been in the profession of the law were this had I not advised them otherwise, and urged their continued connection with the Education Department, with the expressed assurance, on my part, that justice would yet be done them, and they would yet be placed in the same position as corresponding officers of other public departments.

The salaries of the Deputies of all the Departments of the Civil Service, except the Education Department, have been from \$2,600 to \$2,840 per annum, besides other appointments and allowances to some of them of several hundred dollars a year. The Chief or Senior Clerks, from \$1,800 to \$2,000; First-class Clerks, from \$1,600 to \$2,000; Book-keepers, from \$1,600 to \$2,000; second-class clerks, from \$900 to \$1,240; third class clerks, from \$600 to \$960. (*See Public Accounts for 1867.*)

Take as a further illustration the Ontario Crown Lands Department alone. Apart from the Deputy, it appears that in that department persons who were in the service in 1857-8—the time when the salaries of officers in the Education Office were fixed—have received a progressive rate of increase with length of service. It thus appears from the Public Accounts, that individual salaries have been raised during that period from \$800 to \$1,280 in one instance; in other instances, from \$600 to \$900, and from \$800 to \$1,600; in two cases, from \$900 to \$1,200; one from \$1,080 to \$1,240; in five cases, from \$1,200 to \$1,400, two from \$1,610 to \$1,800, two from \$1,200 and \$1,500 to \$1,800, &c., &c., &c. It appears also that some twelve persons who were not in the service at all in 1857-8, received in 1867 salaries at from \$730 to \$1,240.

I am quite willing that the qualifications and work of the officers employed in the Education Department should be compared with those of any Department of the Civil Service, though the former have not been permitted to enjoy the advantages of the Civil Service Act, notwithstanding their length of service and greatly increased duties. The only exceptions are those in which, out of the Educational Depository I applied, in a limited degree, to certain officers of the Educational Department the "analogy" admitted in the official letter communicating to me the Order in Council fixing the salaries in 1857.

Some years ago, the late Hon. D'Arcy McGee introduced a bill into the Canadian Parliament to define the qualifications, and prescribe examinations for admissions to employment in the Civil Service. He eloquently advocated the employment of well qualified and efficient officers in the Public Departments, with good salaries, and the exclusion of inefficient and useless ones. The *Globe* newspaper strongly advocated the

same views. I suggested to Mr. McGee an amendment to his bill, remarking that I had not only acted on the principle of his bill in previous years, by employing no person in the Education Department without his giving satisfaction as to his qualifications for the situation vacant, but also on the further condition of a six months' trial as to his industry, faithfulness, and practical ability to do the work assigned him. It is in this way that the Department and its attendant schools have been supplied with well qualified, faithful, and able officers.

Upon every ground, therefore, whether of long service, or personal qualifications, or efficiency, or increased work, or "analogy," or comparison with the officers of other Departments of the Civil Service—apart from the increased expense of living—I maintain that the salaries of the subordinate officers of the Education Department should be equal to those of the corresponding officers in the Crown Lands Department. Nor do I see any reason why officers in the Civil Service at Toronto should not have equal salaries with corresponding officers in the public departments at Ottawa—certainly with no higher qualifications, nor more onerous duties.

Objections answered.—Ten Meteorological Observers' Returns—The School Manuals and the Journal of Education.—Reply to Mr. Blake's Objections.

But it has been objected in the House that Messrs. Hodgins and Marling have received extras besides their salaries. The salary of the former since 1864 has been considered as \$2600, and that of the latter \$1600, but to each two additional items have been paid, but not to either for their originally prescribed work as officers of the Department. In 1865, the Grammar School Amendment Law was passed, requiring meteorological observations to be taken at ten places in Upper Canada, and to be paid for by me upon the condition that their monthly returns were satisfactory. It became necessary to examine these returns; to reduce the observations contained in them; to report the results, so as to show the temperature, state of the atmosphere, wind, etc., as noted three times each day of the year by the observers at each of the ten stations—two returns being required every month from each station, or 240 returns during the year. Comparatively few are competent to perform this work; but Mr. Marling prepared himself for it, and undertook it, doing it at his own home in the evenings. Let any one competent to the task look at the returns, and the labour required to examine them, reduce the observations, and calculate the results; or let him enquire of the keeper of the Provincial Observatory; or let him look at my last two annual reports under the head of Meteorological Observations, and let him say if it is not a shame that any man should complain of the small sum of \$200 per annum being allowed Mr. Marling for accomplishing this scientific task

from ten meteorological stations, and preparing the annual report of them. I might have selected another competent person to perform this newly-created work, but must have paid more than twice two hundred dollars for it.

Then Mr. Marling is the Recording Clerk of the Council of Public Instruction, which usually meets at 4 P.M. The duty of the Clerk, in respect to the meetings and various proceedings and orders of the Council, is very considerable, for which the Council has voted such a Clerk \$100 per annum since 1850, and respecting which no fault was ever found or objection made, to my knowledge, until Friday evening, the 16th instant, in the House of Assembly.

But there are two items paid Mr. Hodgins also in addition to salary. The first, \$100 per annum, for delivering every Saturday morning, for nine or ten months, a lecture on the school law and its applications, together with appropriate practical counsels to teachers-in-training in the Normal School. There are two Sessions during the year, averaging about 22 weeks each—thus two courses, or about 40 law lectures are prepared and delivered for the paltry remuneration of \$100, the appointment and compensation being authorized by the Council of Public Instruction. I might ask the honourable member for South Bruce, who has objected to this and other items, whether he would perform the task of preparing and delivering 40 law lectures for \$100? I would ask whether it is Mr. Hodgins' duty, as Deputy-Superintendent, any more than it is my duty, or that of any member of Parliament, to perform such work in the Normal School? The late deceased Head Master of the Normal School pressed the importance of this instruction upon me more than once. I delivered a lecture or two myself on the subject during one or two seasons; but it was felt that much more should be done to acquaint the Normal School teachers with the principles and provisions of the school law, and how this knowledge would avail them in school sections where they are often the clerks of the School Corporations, and can do much to prevent difficulties and adjust differences. The task was at length, by the appointment of the Council, undertaken two years since by Mr. Hodgins—a good speaker, and better acquainted with our school law than any other man living, having assisted in preparing it from the beginning, and in administering it nearly twenty-five years, having edited successive manuals of it, with the forms, notes and definitions of the principal terms from law authorities, and a digest of more than fifty decisions of our Superior Courts in cases of appeal under its operations.* I leave it to any member of the Legislature to say

* The following are the opinions of three Chief Justices of this Province on the merits of those Manuals :—

LATE CHIEF JUSTICE OF UPPER CANADA (SIR J. B. ROBINSON.)—"I have received the new edition of the Grammar and Common School Manuals, for which I thank you. These compilations, *when made with the care which has been exhibited in your book*, greatly assist the Judges in their labours, and help to secure them against the danger of

whether such instruction could have otherwise been provided for so effectually, and at so little expense ?

Finally, objection is made in regard to the amount paid, and to whom paid, for editing, etc., the *Journal of Education*—a periodical which I published six years by subscriptions, at considerable loss to myself, and which I determined to discontinue unless the Legislature would provide means for its publication and transmission without charge, to each School Corporation and Local Superintendent in Upper Canada. The sum of \$1,800 per annum was granted for that purpose in 1850 ; and for that sum the *Journal of Education* is edited, 5,000 copies of it printed, folded, put in covers, addressed and sent to all parts of the country per month. If any objector will do this work, and do it as well, for that sum, I should be happy to see him do it. If I have been authorized to prepare and publish the *Journal of Education*, and am responsible for it, I have the right to select whom I please to do the work, and pay what I please, so that I do not exceed the Parliamentary appropriation. When I ceased to edit, or superintend the publication of it myself, it was my own, and not another's business as to whom I should confide that confidential and important work. I might have selected and employed the literary editor of the *Globe* newspaper ; and had I done so, I might not have received so much abuse from that quarter. But it became me to select an editor who was of one heart and mind with myself, who thoroughly understood the school system, and was in other respects competent for the work. There was no room for hesitation as to the most desirable choice ; the only question was as to whether Mr. Hodgins, with all his masterly arrangements of business and economy of time, could, without interfering with his official duties, devote the attention and labour necessary to edit and superintend the publication of the *Journal of Education*. This he succeeded in doing ; and for doing so, I could not, in the progress of years, offer less than had already been paid for editing the *Journal of Education for Lower Canada*—a journal of less circulation than ours.

But it is reported as having been objected by the member for South Bruce, that an officer of a public department having a salary, should devote *all his time* to the public ! What then comes of the common law

overlooking provisions bearing upon the questions before them. And to all engaged in carrying out the School Laws they must be very valuable."

EX-CHIEF JUSTICE OF UPPER CANADA (HON. W. H. DRAPER, C. B.)—"I am afraid I have been guilty of an apparent neglect in not thanking you for a copy of the School Manual. I have just had my hand upon it, and do not remember having acknowledged your kind attention—and even now I can do little more—beyond expressing *my opinion in favour of the great usefulness of the collection—and of the care and industry with which the notes have been compiled*. I have not had time to do more than make a cursory examination of its contents, *but so far as I have gone, am both pleased and satisfied*."

CHIEF JUSTICE HAGARTY—"Mr. Justice Hagarty thanks Mr. Hodgins for his *very useful and carefully compiled School Manual*, which he has so courteously presented. Mr. Hagarty has no doubt that such a compilation will be no small boon to the large class of persons concerned in the due administration of the School Laws."

and universal usage of certain appointed hours for work, both in Banks and in Public Departments, unless in exceptional cases under a temporary pressure of work? Has not a Bank Clerk certain hours of his own? Have not all officers of Public Departments the same? The member for South Bruce engages to serve his constituents in two legislatures for a certain remuneration. It may be inadequate; but, nevertheless, the office is accepted upon the conditions prescribed by law. But does he give all his time to his two-fold duties? Does he do nothing for his own individual profit during the sessions of the two Legislatures but attend to his representative duties? There are heads of departments, receiving salaries as such, yet do they not receive additional compensation as members of the Legislature, and some even as members of two Legislatures, besides attending to much private professional business? Members of the Legislature sometimes even adjourn its sittings for many days, yet receive every day's pay as if attending to Parliamentary duties. Is a principle to be applied to subordinate officers of public departments, which is not applied to the heads of departments, or to members of the Legislature?

But the same honourable member invokes against my acts and my subordinates the Dominion Civil Service Act of last session. I am not certain that that Act is in force in Ontario; but I accept the authoritative invocation of it, yet deny its application to the case in hand. The invoked (20th) clause of the Act says: "No allowance or compensation shall be made for any extra service whatever which any officer or clerk *may be required to perform in the Department to which he belongs.*"

Now, will the learned gentleman who quoted this clause say that the School Apparatus, Library and Prize Book Depository, (which have, of late years, been established in connection with the Department, and which may be discontinued at any time), is identical with the Education Department proper; or that examining proofs of books prepared and published under the sanction of the Council of Public Instruction, and various other duties ordered by it, or the examining and reducing for publication returns from the ten meteorological stations, are a part of the duties "required" of Mr. Marling as Accountant and Book-keeper in the Education Department? Or that delivering law lectures in the Normal School, or editing, etc., the *Journal of Education* are a part of the duties "required" of the Deputy-Superintendent of Education? Are these separate engagements a part of the departmental duties "required" of the officers referred to, any more than the professional duties of the member for South Bruce in the Court of Chancery are a part of his duties as member of two Parliaments?

But if the 20th clause of the Dominion Civil Service Act of last Session, is (according to the honorable member for South Bruce) in force in Ontario, he cannot deny the application of the 22nd clause of the same Act, which says, "*Nothing in this Act shall affect the salary or emolument of any officer or clerk in the Civil Service at the time of the passing of this Act, so long as he shall be continued in office.*"

The officers in question have been receiving, as "salaries or emoluments" during four years, what is now, in face of the quoted Act, attempted to be taken from them. I submit that in matters of personal and official rights, members of the Legislature, like members of the bench, ought to be impartial and humane judges, and not judges in the spirit of partizanship.

I am thankful to find that thus far, the only acts impugned during my long and difficult administration of the Education Department, relate to the points above noticed—a fixed purpose to do what was equal and just to able and faithful men associated with me in a great national work. And I submit, that when the great work of that Department is admitted to have been done efficiently, and with unparalleled economy, it is hardly fair, much less generous, to carp at two or three items in respect to the principal helpers in the work—less in amount than the cost to the country of the time spent in disputing about them.

Objections to the Journal of Education Answered.—Complimentary References to it.

But it has been objected to the *Journal of Education* itself, that as a periodical it is uninteresting, unworthy of support, etc. I dare say that this may be true in regard to these who never read it, or any thing else worth reading. The honourable member for South Norfolk, resident of the township of Charlotteville, and formerly master of the Vittoria Post-Office (within a mile and a half of my own birth-place), is reported to have said that parties refused to take from his post-office copies of the *Journal of Education* addressed to them. I doubt not the truth of this statement, which the *Globe* adduces as certain proof that the *Journal of Education* is not worth taking out of a post-office. I dare say the same parties take no journal whatever, and that if the *Canadian Farmer* or *Daily Globe* were addressed to them, they would not take either out of the post-office—a proof, according to the *Globe*, that neither is worth taking out of the post-office! Now, there happens to be an English gentleman farmer resident near the same post-office—a man of education and refinement—James H. Covernton, Esq., who has been School Superintendent of the same township for several years. In one of his reports, incidentally alluding to the *Journal of Education*, Mr. Covernton says:—"I venture to suggest that much good might result, if the attention of parents and trustees were called to this matter [teaching needle-work to girls in schools taught by female teachers] through the columns of the *Journal of Education*—which paper, by the way, is very generally received, read, and appreciated, the few instances to the contrary being, I fear, occasions where a degree of supineness prevails, which would not be remedied by the stated transmission of the *Journal* through me, instead of through the accustomed source"—the post-office.

In the appendix to my annual school reports will be found numerous incidental references to the *Journal of Education* in the extracts from the reports of Local Superintendents. I have some twenty of them before me from different Municipalities, and from as many different individuals (Local Superintendents) who have had the best means of information. I will give a few specimens out of the many:—1. "The *Journal of Education* is a welcome visitor." 2. "The *Journal of Education* is a welcome visitor wherever it goes." 3. "The *Journal of Education* is regularly received in all the sections, and is highly appreciated." 4. "The *Journal of Education* is thankfully received, and its valuable information very much appreciated." 5. "The *Journal of Education* is regularly received in this township, and is of great service in the cause of education throughout the Province." 6. "It has been read by all, and with much pleasure and profit, and is a great means of diffusing interesting knowledge amongst the people. In fact, I look upon it as one of the best papers published." 7. "The *Journal of Education* is welcome, and is a leaven of good wherever it goes."

I will not multiply such testimonial statements; but will remark that the *Journal of Education* has never been intended or permitted to be the vehicle of personal or even school law controversy of any kind, in regard either to myself or others, but to be the repository, as far as possible, of the best passages from the best educational addresses of public men, and educational articles in reviews of books of both England and America, an adviser in matters of school instruction and education, and a record of facts most interesting and suggestive in regard to the educational progress of the age. To provide and arrange such material requires vastly more labour, judgment and research, than to fill the pages of the *Journal* with long and readless essays, and endless and pointless speeches and discussions. From the following list of standing headings or departments in the *Journal of Education* from month to month it will be seen what is the range, scope, and character of the articles inserted in each number of the *Journal*: 1. *Papers on Education in Ontario*. 2. *Papers on Education in other countries*. 3. *Papers on Practical Education*. 4. *Papers on Classical Education*. (occasional). 5. *Papers on Geographical (or Scientific) Subjects*. 6. *Papers on Teachers (or Teaching)*. 7. *Monthly Report on Meteorology in Ontario*. 8. *Biographical Sketches*. 9. *Papers on Historical (or Colonial) Subjects*. 10. *Miscellaneous Friday Readings*. 11. *Educational Intelligence*. 12. *Departmental Notices, etc.*

Inter-Communications in the Journal of Education.

In order that nothing might be wanting of local interest, as well as of general educational intelligence in the *Journal of Education*, the following has been a standing printed notice in its columns for some years:

"As already intimated, a department is always reserved in the *Journal*

of *Education* for letters and inter-communications between Local Superintendents, School Trustees and Teachers, on any subject of general interest relating to education in the Province. As no personal or party discussions have, ever since the establishment of the *Journal*, appeared in its columns, no letter or communication partaking of either character can be admitted to its pages; but, within this salutary restriction, the utmost freedom is allowed. Long letters are not desirable; but terse and pointed communications of moderate length on school management, discipline, progress, teaching or other subject of general interest are always acceptable, and may be made highly useful in promoting the great object for which this *Journal* was established."

Alternative.—But if after all this, 5,000 copies of the *Journal of Education*, printed, folded, enveloped, addressed and sent to all the School Corporations, and other school officers of the country, are not worth \$1800, that is, 36 cents per volume, let the publication of it be discontinued.

Hon. Henry Barnard's Opinion of the Journal of Education.

I will conclude by adducing the opinion of a foreigner who has read the *Journal of Education* from the beginning—of the acknowledged Nestor of American Educationists—the Hon. Henry Barnard, LL.D., who has written and published several large volumes on the Normal School, and Educational Institutions of Europe; who has edited and published for a number of years the *American Quarterly Journal of Education*, containing as much matter as any of the English Quarterly Reviews; who has been Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of Connecticut for many years, and by special request, organized a system of public instruction for one of the Western States; and who, on the creation of a National Bureau of Education at Washington two years since, was appointed to preside over it as Commissioner, in order to diffuse educational information throughout the United States, and bring the various State systems of education, as far as possible, into a national unity. Dr. Barnard, in a letter addressed to my Department last year, suggests and remarks as follows:—

"Why do you not have a minute topical index prepared to your *Journal of Education*, from Vol. I. to XXI? It is so full of the history, the principles, the methodology, the biography, and literature generally of schools and education. Such an index will make your sets valuable, not only to your own scholars, teachers, and statesmen, but to educationists everywhere. *It is a monument of intelligent and practical editorship.*"

REPLY TO THE *Globe's* ATTACKS AND OBJECTIONS.

The Globe's Twenty-four years' attacks recapitulated.

During twenty-four years, with a momentary lucid interval or two, I

have encountered the unscrupulous opposition and vituperation of the chief editor of the *Globe* and his trained subordinates, down to the very last employed reporter. For some six years, the avowed "editor-in-chief" sought, by every species of epithet and misrepresentation, to impress upon the public mind that I was endeavouring to saddle the country with a Prussian despotism in order to enslave it; and then failing in that, when I first addressed the public in 1850-1 in favour of *free schools*, he endeavoured to excite the public mind against me, by representing that I was not contented to reduce the country to slavery, but was now attempting to reduce it to pauperism by establishing a system of *pauper schools*—so much so, that on more than one occasion, for a short time, I met with contumely and insult in the streets of this city. That anti-free school onslaught failing, and the free school current becoming so strong, the "editor-in-chief" of the *Globe* thought it the best policy to float with the tide, but raised another out-cry, and sought again to excite the whole country against myself on account of the Separate School provisions of the law, though he shortly afterwards formed a confederate coalition with Roman Catholic statesmen of Lower Canada to preserve for all time those Separate School provisions in all their integrity! But he commenced a new crusade against me for devising means to supply School Municipalities of the country with suitable libraries, school maps, globes, apparatus, text books and prize books, charging me with all sorts of peculations—a crusade which, with brief suspensions, from sheer weariness and exhaustion, he has continued to this day.

And now in the *Globe's* occasional professed reports of what took place in the Education Committee of the Legislative Assembly, he has, with scarcely an exception, misrepresented both my recommendations and proceedings (of which I could point out upwards of a dozen instances); and in his reports of the debates of the House itself, he suppresses nearly every word and statement favourable to myself, and presents in the strongest and sometimes exaggerated light whatever he thinks is said to my disadvantage; sometimes stating editorially what is wholly untrue, and at other times stating part of the truth to give the greater effect to the falsehood, as the Laureate poet Tennyson says:—

"A lie, which is all a lie,
May be met and fought with outright;
But a lie which is half a truth,
Is a harder matter to fight."

But the members of the Education Committee, and of the House of Assembly generally, are themselves witnesses of the partial and unfair character of the *Globe's* reports in regard to everything which concerns myself or the Education Department. I need not therefore notice them in detail; but it remains for me to notice the *Globe's* conduct and objections in respect to my proposed retirement from office. In his editorial of the 19th instant, he misrepresents the motives, circumstances, grounds,

and conditions of my proposed retirement; yet he formally refuses to insert my letter of resignation (read by authority before the Education Committee), though a copy of it was sent to him in manuscript for that purpose before it was published in the *Leader* newspaper!

In no part of the world is the press more outspoken and independent in its opinions and censures than in England; but no press in England of any character would descend to suppress official documents, and cook reports to malign its most dreaded or hated adversary. This mode of procedure, with great vigilance in news collecting, has given the *New York Herald* its notoriety and circulation; but no one relies upon its statements in regard to either a hated individual or nation, or respects its opinions, any more than one can those of its *Globe* imitator. The *Globe* may indeed say with Iago in Shakespeare, "I am nothing, if not abusive;" but while free and manly discussion of public measures and men are conducive to the elevation of the public mind, and the advancement of society, a perpetual imputation of the motives and character of public men, and a systematic falsification of facts, to accomplish personal and party objects, must tend, as far as their influence extends, to educate the public mind in meanness, suspicion, hatred and intrigue, instead of training it to manliness, honour, and integrity.

The Globe of 1859 on Dr. Ryerson's "Dotage," vs. The Globe of 1868 on his "full possession of his faculties!"

I hereto append my letter of recommendation and resignation of office, in reply to most of the *Globe's* statements and insinuations; but there are three matters referred to in his editorial which require a separate notice in this place. In the first place, the editor of the *Globe* objects to my retirement, because I am not an old man, or worn-out in the work. He says—"The Doctor is not an old man yet; nor is his physical health or mental energy, according to the estimate of himself and all his friends, in any measure impaired. Why should he retire? There is work, and of an important kind, to be done. Why may he not continue to do it? What more congenial work he could have, we fail to imagine. To pension a man scarcely yet turned of sixty, and in full possession of his faculties, and that with either the whole salary or half, would scarcely do." So writes the editor of the *Globe* in 1868. Can it be believed that the same "editor-in-chief" of the *Globe*, under his own proper name in 1859, not only declared me unfit and unqualified for my office, but alleged that I was in my "dotage." In 1859, the editor of the *Globe* had an object in endeavouring to drive me from office; in 1868, he has an object in keeping me in office—being evidently afraid of my Department becoming connected with, and a source of strength to a Government to which he is opposed; and therefore in 1859, he alleges me to be in my "dotage," and nine years later, in 1868, he alleges me not to be an "old man," "scarcely yet turned of sixty," and "in full

possession" of my "faculties." How much truth there is in either of those statements, is left to the members of the Legislature and every reader to decide.

The Globe's misrepresentation in regard to a Pension—His suppression of the Letter of Resignation to correct it.

In the next place, the editor of the *Globe* denies that I have any claim to a pension, assuming throughout that I have made application on the subject, and yet refusing to insert my official letter of resignation, which contains no application of the kind. But while I have not been, and do not intend to be an applicant for anything—having full confidence in the justice and right feeling of the Legislature of the country I have done my best to serve—I deny the truth, as I abhor the meanness, not to say the cruelty, of the *Globe's* avowal.

I submit that as there can be but one founder of a system of public instruction in a country, and as I have been permitted that distinction in regard to Upper Canada, and have laboured in its promotion for nearly twenty-five years, until nearly 66 years of age, I could urge a claim to a pension, if any man in Canada could, and especially in connection with the fact that any Puisne Judge has a right by law to retire on a pension of two-thirds his salary, after even twenty years' service, whether he is worn-out, old or not.

Pension to Ex-Chancellor Blake—It a Solitary Case—The Globe sees no objection to it—The vote which caused the Hon. Robert Baldwin's Retirement.

But I give an illustration—the only case at present of a pensioned judge in this Province, and a case which received, so far as I know, no opposition from the editor of the *Globe*—I refer to the case of the Hon. W. H. Blake, late Chancellor. In 1849, Mr. Blake, as Solicitor-General, introduced, and got passed through the Legislature a bill for re-organizing the Court of Chancery, under the operations of which, after the close of the Session, the then existing Chancellor Jameson was pensioned at \$3,000 per annum, and Mr. Blake was appointed Chancellor, at a salary of \$5,000 per annum. The proceeding was so unpopular that in 1850, a majority of the House of Assembly voted for the abolition of the Court of Chancery altogether—a vote such as was never adopted or even proposed in respect to the Department of Public Instruction—and a vote also, or rather *the* vote which drove the late Honourable Robert Baldwin from public life.

Mr. Blake's twelve and a half year's Service—His pension on retirement of \$3,333.33 per annum since 1862.

Mr. Blake was appointed Chancellor the 1st of October, 1849.

and continued, with intervals of illness, to discharge the duties of the office until the 18th of March, 1862, when he was allowed to resign on the ground of ill-health, after twelve and a half-year's service, upon a pension of \$3333.33 per annum—a pension which he still enjoys, residing latterly in Europe. I question not the wisdom and righteousness of this proceeding, and I bear willing homage to the great ability and merits of the Honourable Chancellor Blake; but I submit to the Honourable Member for South Bruce, who has thought proper to attack me during both the last and present Session of the Legislature, and I put it to the editor of the *Globe*, who has assailed me for the last twenty-five years, whether the Department of Public Instruction has not been of as much service to the country as the Court of Chancery, and whether my nearly twenty-five years of public service would not give me as strong a claim, in any court of equity, to a pension, as twelve and a half years does the ex-Chancellor?

If it be said that Mr. Blake prepared himself by previous study, &c., for the Chancellorship; I admit it, and in a professional career very profitable to himself. But I maintain that in a profession of little profit to myself, I did not the less prepare for my work of the last quarter of a century for my native country, having, during the twenty years of my previous public life, taught in school and college, edited a paper nine years—then the most widely circulated paper in the Province—in which I discussed all those fundamental principles of civil polity which we now boast of as lying at the foundation of our freedom and government; and during which, I wrote essays and pamphlets on educational and other public questions, which, when since collected and got bound by a friend, form four ordinary volumes. This work was done before 1844, in anything but a profitable profession, and may be considered, I think, as some preparation for the work in which I have since been engaged, and for which I think, without presumption, I might present some claim for public consideration, at least equal to that which was granted to the late Chancellor for twelve and a half year's service.

The "Globe's" misrepresentations of my reasons for retirement.—What those reasons are.

But, in the third place, the Editor of the *Globe* assumes that I am weary of my present duties and contemplate an inactive retirement, with the hope of a pension for life, and in opposition, affirms my vigour to work, the need of my doing so; and is horrified that I or any of my friends should think of such a thing as my being pensioned for life.

Now, if after 44 years of hard public labour, and often much exposure, more than one-half of which has been devoted to the one work of perfecting our Educational system, I should, at the age of nearly sixty-six years, desire retirement and rest, and some provision during the short remains of a far-spent life, what heart in Upper Canada, except the

heart of the Editor of the *Globe*, would begrudge me the gratification of that wish?

But had the Editor of the *Globe* not refused to insert my official letter of resignation, his readers would have seen that I have not proposed to retire from office on the ground of health, or age, or weariness of my work (though I have often been weary in it), or with a view to inactive seclusion, but wholly upon public grounds, to secure more intimate relations of the Department to the Government and Legislature, arising out of the varied developments and vast dimensions of the School system, and in order to bring all the public educational establishments of the country under governmental inspection and authority. The plain object of my recommendation and proposal was to give an additional impulse to the whole educational interests of the country. The Editor of the *Globe* could, or would not admit of such a conception; judging me, of course, by himself, he could not conceive of my being influenced by any other than considerations of personal convenience and interest, and therefore could only so represent me as acting. It was the old Greek maxim, that "Change of employment is rest." I look for no other rest in regard to labour in this life; but so far from being weary of the chief work of my life, I say now, that if the Government and Legislature, having my recommendations before them, and knowing my personal wishes, think that the time has not yet arrived for acting on my recommendations, and for permitting my retirement from the Department of Public Instruction, I hold myself still, as in times past, the servant of my country, in serving my God; and will, if desired and spared, do the various work required to give effect to the pending School Bills, and complete at least my twenty-five years of public service.

Proposed Labour after Retirement.

But in my proposed and desired immediate retirement, I contemplated anything but the inactivity insinuated by the *Globe*, as my letter suggesting it shows. There are things which my experience and knowledge of the country would enable me to do, that others, if competent, are not likely to do; while a Minister of the Crown, with the aid of the able and experienced men in it, might well administer the Education Department. There is wanting a book on the *Elements of Civil Government and Political Economy*, suited to the institutions of our country, and adapted to youth and the schools; a book provided in the United States, and strongly recommended by the Royal Educational Commissioners for Schools in England. On this important subject—the foundation of correct views and of varied duties of citizenship in a free country—we have nothing for the education of the popular mind but newspaper effusions. Then every farmer's son ought to know something of the soil he cultivates and its aliments, the plants and grains he grows and the animals he raises, and hence a book on the *Elements of Agricul-*

ture, including the simple teachings of science and experience on these subjects, would be a valuable gift to the agricultural youth and many rural schools of this Province. Again, a book on *Moral Duties*—neither a Catechism on the one hand, nor a Theological or Moral Philosophy Treatise on the other—entrenching on no denominational peculiarity, but presenting with simple attractiveness the elements and precepts of moral relations and duties, such as form the basis and cement of society and government—would supply a desideratum in our books of youthful study and in our system of public instruction. Furthermore, a properly compiled or prepared book on the *Applications of Science to the Productions, Manufactures, Mechanics or Machinery of the Country*, might contribute much to instruction and entertainment, and to increase our country's industrial power and resources.

A first Canadian contribution on any or all of these subjects, with all the aid of counsel and research, might be very imperfect, but the way once marked out, and the foundation once laid, greater ability, skill and learning would soon be developed to advance and complete the work.*

Then again, a country owes something to its ancestry, as well as to itself. Lower Canada, the States of New England, and New York, have nobly discharged this filial duty. They have spared neither labour nor money in collecting, transcribing, and printing the letters, journals, memorials and documents found in the family and public archives of their earliest settlers, and throwing the faintest light upon their character and circumstances; while there is scarcely any end to the chronicles, civil, religious, and constitutional histories of their growth, institutions, government and civilization. In these respects Upper Canada has thus far been unfilial, niggardly and negligent. Little or no aid or encouragement has been given to collect the precious materials of our ancestral history, in this and the Maritime Provinces,—so largely, and with us primarily, peopled by martyr exiles to convictions of principle and duty. I believe materials exist, though now scattered far and wide, and mouldering among the still surviving relics of two past generations, which, if collected, would present an ancestral history of which Canadians might well be proud.

The Editor of the *Globe* vaguely asks how I could employ myself, if relieved of office. The preceding paragraphs may suggest to him a field of useful labour for greater powers and a longer life than mine, irrespective of any strictly religious or denominational duties.

But, apart from all other considerations, I may remark, and conclude with the remark, that the Editor of the *Globe's* present protest against my retirement from office, and demand for my continuance at the head of the Education Department—though done in a hostile spirit—is a

* Any book, however, introduced into the Schools, by whomsoever prepared, must be submitted to and sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction, and the copyright of it vested in the Head of the Department, subject to the direction of the Council of Public Instruction.

practical refutation of all the calumnies which he has heaped upon me for the last twenty years and more, and a proof demonstrative that he does not believe one word of them himself.

E. RYERSON.

Toronto, December 30th; 1868.

Copy of Letter of Recommendation and Resignation of the Reverend Dr. Ryerson, refused insertion in the Globe.—See pages 31, 32.

At a meeting of the Educational Committee of the House of Assembly, on Wednesday, the 16th December, Dr. Ryerson addressed the Committee about an hour and a half, and at its conclusion, by the permission of the Attorney-General and the Provincial Secretary, he read to the Committee the following copy of a letter which he had addressed to the Government, in regard to the Department of Public Instruction, and his retirement from it:—

“EDUCATION OFFICE,

“Toronto, 7th Dec., 1868.

“Sir.—I have the honour to submit to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, what, some three weeks since, I submitted to individual members of the government, namely, that—

‘The Department of Public Instruction shall be under the management of a member of the Executive Council, to be designated ‘Minister of Public Instruction,’ who shall be *ex-officio* member of the Toronto University, and of the Council of Public Instruction, and who, in addition to the powers and functions vested in the Chief Superintendent of Education, shall have the oversight of all educational institutions which are, or may be, aided by public endowment or legislative grant, to inspect and examine, from time to time, personally or through any person appointed by him, into the character and working of such institutions; and by him shall all public moneys be paid in support or aid of such institutions, and to him they shall report at such times and such manner as he shall direct.’

“With a view of giving effect to the foregoing recommendation, I hereby resign into the hands of His Excellency my office as Chief Superintendent of Education, an office which I have filled upwards of twenty four years, during which I have employed my best years and utmost efforts to devise and develop our present system of public instruction, and have been favoured with the cordial support of successive governments and parliaments, and with the liberal co-operation of the people of Upper Canada at large. I shall not dwell upon the developments or characteristics of that system; but I feel thankful that they are such as have received the highest approval, both at home and abroad.

“Our system of public instruction has acquired such gigantic dimensions, and the net-work of its operations so pervades every municipality of the land, and is so interwoven with our municipal and judicial systems of government, that I think its administration should now be vested in a responsible minister of the Crown, with a seat in parliament, and that I should not stand in the way of the application to our varied educational interests of that ministerial responsibility which is sound in principle and wise in policy. During the past year I have presented a report on the school systems of other countries with a view of improving our own; and the Legislative Assembly has appointed a Select Committee for the same purpose. I have, therefore, thought this was the proper time to suggest the modification and extension of the Department of Public Instruction.

“I beg to append a summary printed statement of the creation and progress of the system during my administration of it, and also a statistical summary of my last year's report.

“In regard to myself, as to both the past and the future, I beg to make the following statement.

“While in addition to the duties imposed upon me by law as Chief Superintendent of Education, I have voluntarily established a system of providing the municipal and school authorities with libraries, text books, and every description of school furniture and school apparatus—devising and developing their domestic manufacture, and have thus saved the country very many thousands of dollars in the prices as well as quality of the books, maps, &c., &c., I can truly say that I have not derived one farthing's advantage from any of these arrangements beyond the consciousness of conferring material, intellectual, and social benefits upon the country. When I accepted office, I made no stipulation as to salary, which was subsequently fixed by statute not to exceed that of the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada, and to bear the same proportion to his salary as the share of Upper Canada to the population division of the legislative school grant bore to the share of Lower Canada. At that time the population of Upper Canada was reported in the census as less than that of Lower Canada. My salary has, therefore, been regulated by act of parliament, and not by the favor of any government. Beyond the economical current expenses of my family, and the purchase of my dwelling, I had, until within four years, distributed my salary in aid of benevolent and public objects. During the last four years I had accumulated and invested two thousand dollars; but recently the claims of two objects seemed to be so strong (the one the purchase of McGill square, for benevolent purposes, the other, the endowment of Victoria College,) that I divided the two thousand dollars between them. With the exception, therefore, of the house I occupy, I have no more material wealth than I had twenty-five years ago.

“But in regard to the future I stipulate or solicit nothing. In view of my labours during the last twenty-four years and upwards, my age of

nearly sixty-six years, and my voluntary retirement from my position, I believe the Government and Legislature of the country will do what is just and honorable, and I ask no more. I am still willing to do what I can to advance the chief work of my life, and if it is thought I may be useful in connection with the Council of Public Instruction, I will be happy to do what I can in that capacity, as also (released from the cares and duties of office) to contribute to the school and other literature of the country, and to aid, if desired, the proposed minister of public instruction, with any counsel my experience may enable me to give.

“As to the time and manner of giving effect to the foregoing suggestions in regard to the department or my own resignation, I defer entirely to the convenience of the Government and the judgment of the Governor in Council.

“I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed,)

“E. RYERSON.

“The Hon. M. C. Cameron, M.P.P.,
Secretary of the Province, Toronto.”

