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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

TO WHOM

WERE REFERED THE DOCUMENTS SENT DOWN

BY

His Excellency

RELATIVE

TO LANDS SET APART FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

IN

THIS PROVINCE.

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO BE PRINTED.

YORK:

JAMES BAXTER, PRINTER.

1831.

BLACCS

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FIRST REPORT, &c.



The Committee appointed to consider and report on the Documents sent down to this House by His Excellency the Lieut. Governor on the subject of School Lands, respectfully beg leave to make this, their first Report.

Your committee, upon a perusal of these important papers learn that in the year 1797 the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this Province passed a joint address to His Majesty imploring that His Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct the appropriation of a certain quantity of the waste lands of the Crown as a fund for the establishment and support of a respectable Grammar school in each District thereof, and also of a College or University for the instruction of youth in the different branches of liberal knowledge." To which His Majesty was graciously pleased to express his intention "to comply with the wishes of the Legislature of his Province of Upper Canada in such manner as should be judged to be the most effectual. First, by the establishment of free grammar schools in those Districts, in which they are called for, and in due process of time, by establishing other seminaries of a larger and more comprehensive nature for the promotion of religious and moral learning, and the study of the Arts and Sciences." For which purpose, Mr. President Russell was directed to "consult the members of the Executive Council and the Judges and Law officers of the crown and to report in what manner and to what extent a portion of the Crown Lands might be appropriated and rendered productive towards the formation of a fund for these purposes, out of which His Majesty might allot such salaries as he should judge proper for the School Masters of such Free Schools as should thereafter be appointed.— And on the 1st December, 1798 the Executive Council reported to Mr. President Russell, "That an appropriation of 500,000 acres or ten townships after deducting the crown and clergy sevenths would be a sufficient fund for the establishment and maintenance of the Royal Founda-

tion of four Grammar schools, and an university in the Province of Upper Canada" and that the proposed school fund should when raised be applied:

- 1st. For the erection of the necessary buildings.
- 2nd. For the payment of the salaries of the masters.
- 3rd. For keeping the buildings in repair and the purchase of Books and philosophical apparatus, and that £3,000 currency be applied to erect each building, and £180 per annum for the establishment and support of a free Grammar school in each District.

The Council also reported that the Towns of Cornwall, Kingston, Newark, and Sandwich were at that time the most proper places for the sites of four schools, first necessary, and that the Town of York was the most suitable for a University, and that two of the schools, namely, at Kingston and Newark, should be commenced first, and that whenever the appropriated fund should be found sufficient, not only to bear the expense of the erection and endowment of those two schools but also to leave a residue sufficient for the establishment and future maintenance of a seminary of a larger and more comprehensive nature, that steps should be taken to endow the two other schools.

The Executive Council also recommended that the provision for the establishment and maintenance of the University should at least be equal to that for the four schools taken together.

Your committee, upon looking over the remaining Documents which His Excellency had the goodness to communicate to this House, are informed that the attention of the Council was again directed to the school land reservation, on the 7th January 1819, and that they reported to His Excellency, Sir P. Maitland, that no trace of any answer to the report of the Council of 1st December 1798 could be found in the Council Office; that as they were of opinion with the

Attorney General that the appropriation of land was not sufficiently sanctioned to authorise a grant in other portions than limited by His Majesty's Commission, they thought it proper to recommend that His Excellency should call the attention of His Majesty's Government to a formal sanction to sell, lease, grant and dispose of the said 500,000 acres of land for the purpose of establishing a University in this Province, endowed by Royal Charter, as provision for District schools was not, by them, thought necessary out of this fund, as it had been already made by the Legislature, and that in order to construct the necessary building the sum of £10,000 would be required, with an endowment of £4,000 per annum, for the payment of salaries.

From this condensed view of the proceedings of the Executive Council on the munificent provision for the diffusion of education in this Province, the Committee are struck with the singular fact that no apparent benefit has resulted to the inhabitants of the country from the school reservation for a period of thirty years, and that the original intention of the Legislature expressed in the Joint Address to His Majesty as well as His Majesty's most gracious desire to meet their wishes by the establishment of free grammar schools in those Districts in which they are called for, and in due process of time to establish other seminaries of a more extensive nature; have hitherto, as far as your committee can judge, been lost sight of, and for no other reason that your committee can discover than that a school has by an act of the Legislature been already established in each District with a salary of one hundred pounds to the Master. But this very limited provision, your committee respectfully submit ought not to deprive the people of their just claim to a participation in the benefits of the school lands, and to that end the committee suggest that the Legislature ought now to address His Majesty setting forth the great value of these lands and the ample means which they afford to carry into effect the benevolent intentions of his late Royal Father, by an endowment from their proceeds, for each District, of at least four hundred pounds, which added to the present appropriation would support eleven respectable seminaries where the youth of the Province generally might receive a liberal education without being removed many hundred miles from the tender care and watchful authority of their Parents, as must be the case if these lands are exclusively applied to establish and support King's College or any other extensive university which can only be viewed as of benefit to those whose wealth enables them to bear the great expense of sending their children to the capital of the Province—Your Committee also recommend, that besides the above endow-

ment, the sum of two thousand pounds might be set apart for the annual support of a Provincial Seminary at York, whether called Upper Canada College or by any other name, and that a suitable sum should be expended to erect the necessary buildings, and also to defray the expense of buildings for the free Grammar Schools.

That besides these endowments your committee are of opinion that the great value and extent of the reservation will afford the means of providing a salary of fifty pounds each to the Teachers, of at least twelve township schools, in every District, and thus give to Upper Canada a system of Education that might well be envied by any other Colony in His Majesty's dominions.

The data upon which Your Committee have made the foregoing suggestions are the following, viz. That the whole reservation of 549,217 acres, if sold, at the average price of 10s. per acre would give a capital of £274,608 producing, if invested at the rate of five per cent. interest an annual income of £13,730 a sum sufficient to endow the schools, which your committee conceive to be necessary, besides leaving an important balance to defray the expense of the sales and collecting the money.

Eleven Grammar Schools at £400 is.....	£4,400	0	0
1 College at York,.....	2,000	0	0
132 Township schools, being 12 in each District, £50 each, ..	6,600	0	0
Balance,.....	730	0	0
	£13,730	0	0

Your Committee, in assuming that these lands will sell at the above rate, conceive that they have much underrated their actual value, as it is generally understood that the Council of King's College, have estimated 225,273 acres of Crown Reserves, which were exchanged for and now form a part of the school reservation as worth one pound an acre.

Your Committee, taking all the circumstances of this highly important subject into their most serious consideration, and averse to an extensive endowment out of this fund to King's College or any other University until the original intention of founding a free Grammar school in each District has first been carried into effect, earnestly recommend to the House that an humble address be forth with transmitted to His Majesty representing the manifest injury that is inflicted on the Inhabitants of this province by the endowment of the best half of the school-reservation for the establishment of a seminary far exceeding the wants of the country, and solemnly beseeching His

Majesty to listen to the anxious desire of His faithful subjects in Upper Canada, by arresting the Alienation of these lands from their original purpose and placing them under the controul of the Legislature, and for this object your committee submit the following resolutions for the consideration of the House.

All which is respectfully submitted,

W. MORRIS,
Chairman.

Committee Room,
House of Assembly, }
23rd Feb'y 1831.

Resolved, That His Majesty in the year 1797, was graciously pleased to communicate to the Government of this Province by a despatch from the Duke of Portland to Mr. President Russell, in answer to a joint address of the Legislature, His Majesty's intention to set apart a certain portion of the waste lands of the Crown as a fund for the Establishment and support of a free Grammar school in those Districts in which they are called for, and in due process of time to establish other seminaries of a more comprehensive nature.

Resolved, That although more than 30 years have elapsed since His Majesty made this gratifying communication, it does not come within the knowledge of this House that even one free grammar school has been endowed from these lands, or any other Seminary Established in consequence of that reservation, except a school at the seat of Government, called "the Royal Grammar School."

Resolved, That the Establishment by the Legislature of a public school in each District with a salary of £100 currency paid out of the Provincial Treasury to the Master, does not afford sufficient means to instruct the Youth of the Province in the several branches of classical

and scientific learning, and ought not, therefore, to be considered as a reason for withholding the support which His Majesty intended for the District Grammar schools.

Resolved, That it is most important to the contentment and Welfare of the people of this Province that the school lands be applied to the purposes for which they were originally intended and immediate steps taken to represent to His Majesty's Government that the several Districts, from their extensive and rapidly increasing population, are now in a state to require the establishment of free Grammar Schools, with a suitable endowment, which schools if incorporated with the present District schools would afford the means of respectable support to a master and two assistants, in each, and thereby enable the inhabitants generally to confer the blessings of a liberal education on their children, and find employment as masters for such of them as may be found to have made the necessary proficiency in the acquirement of Classical and scientific knowledge.

Resolved, That it would be much more satisfactory to the people of this Province if the monies arising from the sale of school lands were paid into the hands of the Receiver General, and the fund placed at the disposal of the Legislature instead of the present arrangement—as not only the control of the funds, but the general superintendance and organization of the whole system would thus be open to public inspection and approval.

Resolved, That an Humble Address be presented to His Majesty, setting forth the substance of the foregoing resolutions, and imploring His Majesty's early attention to the anxious hope of His Majesty's faithful subjects of Upper Canada; that the school lands may not be applied to any other object than that for which they were intended by His Majesty's late Royal Father.

FINIS.