

No. 49.

2nd Session, 5th Parliament, 19 Victoria, 1856.

BILL.

An Act to provide for the establishment
of Superior Primary Schools in certain
Parishes and Townships in Lower Can-
ada.

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1856.

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Mr. POULIN.

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An Act to provide for the establishment of superior Primary Schools in certain Parishes and Townships in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS schools purely elementary do not suffice to afford to the people an education adequate to their desires and requirements, on account of the difficulties experienced in the establishment of Model Schools upon the basis laid down by the Act 9 Vict., cap. 27; And inasmuch as superior elementary instruction receives but little encouragement in Lower Canada, and the people derive no apparent advantages from their schools, it becomes necessary to make further provisions for the perfecting of a system of public education; Therefore, Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows :

10 I. As soon as possible after the passing of this Act, the School Commissioners elected by virtue of the Acts 9 Vict. chap., 27, and 12 Vict. chap., 50, shall establish in each School Municipality, not containing less than three thousand inhabitants, a superior elementary school in the most central part of the Municipality, which shall be under the control of the said School Commissioners, and shall be in the place and 15 instead of a Model School as contemplated by the Acts above cited : Provided always, that it shall be lawful for the School Commissioners of any Municipality, the population of which shall be under three thousand, to establish a superior elementary school by virtue of this Act, if they 20 shall think proper so to do.

II. Children of both sexes residing in the School Municipality in which such school shall be established, shall be admitted thereto upon payment only of the fees payable at the other schools of the Municipality, provided that the children admitted to the said school shall be at 15 least able to read, to write from dictation and be acquainted with the four primary rules of arithmetic both simple and compound.

III. The regular course of instruction in the said School shall extend over a period of at least three years, during which instruction shall be given in grammar and geography in all their branches, history, practical 30 geometry, linear drawing, the use of the globes, book-keeping, composition and the forms of commercial transactions and the principles of Government and Agriculture.

IV. The purchase of the land, and the erection and repair of a building for such superior elementary school, shall be provided for in the 35 manner prescribed by the Acts 9, cap. 27, and 12 Viet., cap. 50 for the purchase of land and the erection of Model school houses.

All Model and Superior Schools to be conducted according to this Act.

V. Every Model or superior school, and every institution under the control of the Commissioners, serving as a Model or superior school, shall hereafter be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Act as superior elementary schools, and shall enjoy the benefit of the education laws of the Country, on the condition of the observance by 5 them of all the clauses and conditions of this Act.

Schools under this Act in Boroughs and Incorporated Villages.

Salary of Teachers.

VI. In every borough or incorporated Village not containing less than three thousand inhabitants it shall and may be lawful to establish two superior elementary schools, one for boys and one for girls, to which schools shall be admitted all children sufficiently advanced to attend 10 them, residing in the School Municipality of which the said Borough or Village formed part previous to its incorporation, and the salary allowed to the teacher of the said school for girls shall be at least sixty pounds current money of this Province, and the said salary shall, in the same manner as those of the male teachers of superior elementary schools, be 15 paid out of the grants received from the Government, by the two School Municipalities united for the purposes of this Act, and every Borough or Village incorporated for school purposes, containing less than three thousand persons, and by virtue of this Act reunited to the Municipality whereon it formerly formed part, for the purposes of this Act, and each of 20 the said Municipalities, shall contribute to the expenses of the said school in proportion to their respective populations.

Duty of School inspectors as to Schools under this Act.

VII. It shall hereafter be the duty of the School Inspectors to superintend the establishment and the operation of the said superior elementary schools in their respective districts; and in order thereto, they shall be 25 and are hereby invested with all the authority conferred by the Acts relative to education before cited in order to their due execution, without prejudice to the rights of the rate payers as conferred upon them by the same laws.

Qualification of Teachers.

Term of engagement: Proviso.

Salary and how paid.

VIII. The instruction in the said superior elementary school, shall 30 be entrusted to a teacher who shall have received his diploma as a Model School teacher from one of the Board of Examiners established by the Act 9 Vict., cap. 27, and the said teacher shall be engaged by the School Commissioners for a period not less than three years, according to the duration of the course of instruction adopted in the said school, 35 the said teacher, however, being at all times liable to be dismissed from his said office for the causes mentioned in the 21st section of the Act 9 Vict., cap. 27, upon proof made to the satisfaction of the visitor of the school for the District, or of the Superintendent of Education; and the annual salary of the said teacher shall not be less than £75 currency 40 in Municipalities containing three thousand inhabitants, nor less than £100 like currency in Municipalities having 4,000 inhabitants, which sum of £75 or £100 shall be paid by the Secretary-Treasurer out of the grant received from the Government for the School Municipality.

Part of money to which the District is entitled may be appropriated to the salary of the Teachers of Schools under this Act.

IX. And whereas the District in which such superior elementary 45 school shall have been established, will derive more immediate benefit than the other Districts of the same School Municipality; Be it enacted that before making any appropriation out of the grant made by Government, the Secretary-Treasurer shall, if the School Commissioners for the Municipality shall think it just and expedient, appropriate a sum not 50 exceeding one-third of the money belonging to the District in which the

said superior elementary school shall have been established, towards the payment of the salary of the teacher of the said school.

X. The said superior elementary school in each Municipality shall be open to the examination of all the Officers appointed under the Acts 9, 12 and 15 Vict., and the Inspector for the District in which such schools shall be established shall moreover make regular visits thereto every three months, shall fix the duration of the course of studies, determine the subjects of instruction for each year in a uniform manner in each school, preside at the public examinations, and make a special report to the Superintendent of Education.

Inspection of Schools under this Act.

XI. Any School Commissioner or body of Commissioners elected by virtue of the 9 and 12 Vict., chapters 27 and 50, who shall refuse to conform to the provisions of this Act or neglect to put them into execution, shall, each Commissioner severally, be liable to the penalty established in such case by the Education Laws hereinbefore cited, which said penalty shall be recovered in the manner provided by the said Acts or by the School Inspector, who is hereby bound to see to the execution of this Act.

Penalty on School Commissioners not complying with this Act.

XII. Nothing contained in this Act shall extend to the Cities of Quebec or Montreal.

Not to apply to Cities.

XIII. The said superior elementary schools shall open upon the first Tuesday of September in each year, and shall close upon the third Thursday of July following, and during the above mentioned period of study the said school shall be in actual operation for at least two hundred days.

Period during which such Schools shall be open.

XIV. Pupils shall only be admitted to the said superior elementary schools within the fifteen days following the opening of the said schools, and not afterwards.

Period for admission of pupils.

XV. Any child who shall be absent without urgent cause, to the evident detriment of his studies, and so as to retard the progress of the classes, who shall not, upon warning to that effect, attend more regularly, may, upon complaint made by the teacher to the School Commissioners, be, by the order of the said Commissioners, sent back to the District schools; it shall be lawful, however, the following year, to admit the said pupil to the superior elementary school.

Dismissal of pupils not attending regularly.

XVI. The clauses and parts of clauses of the Acts relating to education hereinbefore cited, which relate to the establishment, support and management of Model Schools and schools for girls, shall cease to have force and effect for the purposes above mentioned, but the said clauses and parts of clauses herein referred to, shall continue by virtue of this Act to have force and effect in relation to the establishment, maintenance and government of superior elementary schools.

Application of certain clauses of School Acts.