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ABSTRACT

OF THE

RETURNS OF THE INSPECTION

OF

GRAMMAR AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

IN

NEW BRUNSWICK,

1844-5.

WITH

Instructions to the Inspectors, their Joint Report, and Report of the Committee
of the House of Assembly.

FREDERICTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN SIMPSON, PRINTER TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

1845.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The number of Pupils pursuing higher branches than are professedly taught in the majority of the Parish Schools is about 100 ; of these 24 are studying some branch of the Mathematics beyond common Arithmetic ; 7 French ; and 71 Latin, of whom 14 are in Greek.

The benefits derivable from these establishments are greatly impaired by the state of the elementary Schools. Much of the time of the Teachers is at present devoted to impart that description of instruction which ought to be obtained elsewhere or from an Usher ; and the general information and training, which it is desirable should accompany the classics, are thus necessarily withheld. A classical education is in consequence undervalued ; and in some parts of the Province the demand for it has nearly ceased. Nor indeed is this surprising, when the difficulties which Parents experience in getting their Children taught to read, write, and cipher, sufficiently well for the most ordinary walks of life, are taken into consideration.

Ample testimony is borne to the efficiency of some of the Schools, while regret is expressed at much less favorable results being observable in others : three or four of them would not bear a comparison with several of the common Schools.

PARISH OR COMMON SCHOOLS.

The Joint Report of the Inspectors which is annexed to this Abstract, and which may be considered as a part of it, refers exclusively to these Schools.

The general impression made on the minds of the Inspectors is distinctly stated in that document ; and the following summary is intended to embrace such detailed matters only, as were necessarily omitted in it, and which could not be fairly exhibited by extracts from the separate Reports.

Nature and extent of Instruction given, and the method by which it is imparted.

Spelling, Reading, Writing and Elementary Arithmetic, are professedly taught in almost all the Schools ; Grammar in 259 ; Geography in 125 ; Book Keeping in 86 ; Mensuration or some other branch of Mathematics in 68 ; History in 16 ; Greek in 2 ; Latin in 9 ; and Needlework in 49. This information is obtained from the Teachers' Returns ; but with the exception of Spelling, Reading and Needlework, the number of Schools in which the enumerated branches are regularly taught is considerably less. From various causes, the Inspectors' Reports do not admit of a positive statement of the number of Schools in which pupils were actually engaged in the several branches at the time of the Inspection ; but, abating nothing for the probability that Manuscript-Books were occasionally exhibited for Book Keeping and Ciphering when no pupils were present, the numbers may be stated as follows :—Reading or Spelling, 492 ; Writing, 452 ; Arithmetic, 380 ; Grammar, 137 ; Geography, 48 ; Book Keeping, 13 ; some branch of the Mathematics beyond common Arithmetic, 31 ; History, 5 ; French, 4, exclusive of the Acadian French Schools ; Latin, 4 ; Greek, 1. There is good reason to believe that Needlework is taught in more Schools than the Teacher's Returns specify.

In many of the Schools not more than 2 pupils were learning to write or cipher ; and in the several branches beyond common Arithmetic, the Scholars would not average more than 2 to each School, except Grammar, in which the average is about 4.

Spelling.—The Spelling is frequently stated to be unsatisfactory or bad, and as arising principally from the lessons being confined to the columns of the Spelling Book, and to the omission of any regular exercise from the readings. To this the very frequent inability to spell the most common monosyllables is attributable.

The methods of instruction are various ; and failure of due effect most probably arises from the want of steady and faithful perseverance in any one course which has received the sanction of any distinguished educator. The frequent change of the Teachers precludes this in some respects ; and other causes are easily discovered.

Amongst all the methods, the systematic training of the children to spell words, by each spelling defined portions of them, say one or two syllables, or naming only one letter, may be noticed as the least efficient, and the most frequently abused. It enlists the attention, but it necessarily consumes much time, and not unfrequently degenerates into a matter of display ; any apparent expertness being very commonly confined to a few select words.

Reading.—The Inspectors do not appear to have anticipated much attention to the principles of elocution ; hence, except in cases of apparently habitual carelessness, the Reading has not

DISCIPLINE.

All methods are resorted to. There is no record of a decidedly successful application of any one particular means. Corporal chastisement or whipping is dispensed with in very few Schools; while, in several, a decided preference is given to it above all other methods. Improvement in discipline, and ability to instruct, almost necessarily go hand in hand, and may be said to be co-ordinate.

In a few cases the pupils are stimulated to exertion by rewards, but the giving of them forms no part of the system.—Instruction in the nature and application of incentives appears to be as essentially necessary, as it is in the literary department.

SCHOOL HOUSES AND FURNITURE.

The Joint Report appears to be sufficiently explicit on these points.

Inconvenience occasionally arises from the title to the land or building being vested in private individuals; and many instances are noted of such parties being willing to execute Deeds. The suggestion, therefore, has naturally arisen, that it would be advantageous to have a general form of Deed drawn up, printed and circulated.

TEACHERS.

The services and abilities of many of the Teachers are highly commended; and such, it is hoped, will not unnecessarily make a personal application of any of the strictures which the Inspectors have found it their duty to pass; nor complain that they are not more publicly exempted. On the contrary, it is expected, that they will, as the surest means of raising their profession in the public estimation, and to its proper station in society, do whatever lies in their power, to improve the educational resources of the Province. They cannot fail to be sensible that all their fellow labourers possess neither the requisite energy, nor sufficient natural and acquired talents; and that some scrutiny and change of policy are necessary to protect the public against their employment in Districts in which they cannot fulfil the reasonable expectation of their employers.

The Joint Report of the Inspectors makes pointed remarks on the qualifications of the Teachers; and the memoranda on the same head, found in the separate Reports, may be thus summed up:—

Reading and Spelling.—Five or six Teachers are unable to give out the words for the spelling-exercises without hesitation, and miscalling many common words: The returns are evidence of their inability to spell the names of the branches they profess to teach: Many do not know the names and uses of the marks of punctuation: Peculiarities in accent and pronunciation abound. Where these defects do not exist to a large extent, another of greater importance is frequently discovered. In these cases, the Teachers have not been accustomed to attend to the meaning of what they read, and are unable to trace the connexion of sentences, sometimes even of their parts.—The effect of such deficiencies on the part of the Teachers was not passed by the Inspectors without notice; but it needs no comment.

Arithmetic.—Several do not profess to teach any Arithmetic, and many are very deficient in this most useful branch of education. Their knowledge is sometimes limited to the simple rules, or to Compound Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication or Division; and of those who profess to instruct in more advanced rules, comparatively few possess any power of analysis or illustration, or are able to state a question in Proportion with any certainty of a correct result. Several could not strike the average attendance of the Scholars.

Writing.—The Penmanship can be estimated by the specimens in the Returns. It is in general tolerably good, but very frequently destitute of those characteristics which are desirable in the writing of a Teacher who sets copy lines for his pupils. Its superiority over that of the hardworking Farmer and Mechanic, appears in many instances to arise solely from the greater flexibility of the Teacher's fingers.

Other Branches.—The number of those who profess to give instruction in English Grammar, Geography, Book Keeping and Mathematics, is great in proportion to the number of those who are really capable of doing so. Many of them may at one period have been well acquainted with the branches they profess to teach; and from not having had pupils, they may have allowed their knowledge to dwindle till few traces of it are left. They, nevertheless, profess to teach these branches, and solicit scholars. The remark therefore is just, that it is a matter of great importance that the keeping up of their professional knowledge should be secured.

COUNTY OF YORK.—Continued.

| No. | PARISH. | TEACHERS' NAMES. | Age. | Years. | Married or Single. | Period of service in present School. | Months. | Income exclusive of Government allowance. | Estimated Parish Population under 16 years. | | No. of Scholars on School List. | | Average attendance per Teachers' Returns. | | Present on day of Inspection. | |
|-----|---------------|------------------|------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---|---|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---|---------|-------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | Boys. | Girls. | Boys. | Girls. | Summer. | Winter. | | |
| 36 | Douglas. | James Sharpe, | 35 | | Single, | 5 | | 27 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 309 |
| 37 | | Paul Ebery, | 48 | | Married, | 3½ | | 30 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 12 | 7 | 16 | 4 |
| 38 | | Mary Ann Day, | 21 | | Single, | 2½ | | 30 | 15 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 19 | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 39 | | John Lynch, | 30 | | Married, | 16 | | 30 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 5 | 17 | 17 | 7 | 7 |
| 39 | | John Lynch, | 30 | | Married, | 16 | | 30 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 5 | 17 | 17 | 7 | 7 |
| 40 | Saint Mary's. | William Quinn, | 47 | | Single, | 36 | 649 | 25 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 5 | 7 |
| 40 | | Thomas Howell, | 32 | | Married, | 11 | | 45 | 22 | 19 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 7 |
| 41 | | Jared Smith, | 19 | | Single, | 1 | | 41 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 15 |
| 42 | | John Torrens, | 36 | | Married, | 30 | | 30 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 16 | 9 |
| 43 | | Eleanor Walker, | 40 | | Ditto, | 18 | | 20 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| 44 | | Sarah A. Carman, | 29 | | Single, | 9 | | 20 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 11 |
| 45 | | | | | | | | £1,193 | 448 | 453 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 3,561 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 4,210 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 3,998 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 763 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 580 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 574 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 505 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 462 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 363 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |
| | | | | | | | | 466 | 606 | 628 | 403 | 377 | 297 | 381 | 397 | 397 |

John Moore was said to be keeping a School in the Parish of Douglas, but he had discontinued it for several days about the time of the Inspection.

COUNTY OF CARLTON.

| No. | PARISH. | TEACHERS' NAMES. | Age. | Years. | Married or Single. | Period of service in present School. | Months. | Income exclusive of Government allowance. | Estimated Parish Population under 16 years. | | No. of Scholars on School List. | | Average attendance per Teachers' Returns. | | Present on day of Inspection. |
|-----|------------|-------------------|------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---|---|--------|---------------------------------|--------|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | Boys. | Girls. | Boys. | Girls. | Summer. | Winter. | |
| 1 | Woodstock. | Eliza A. Drake, | 24 | | Single, | 12 | | £70 | 30 | 30 | 27 | 6 | 30 | 4 | 30 |
| 2 | | Martin Egan, | 56 | | Married, | 18 | | 28 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| 3 | | James M. Coy, | 30 | | Ditto, | 42 | | 40 | 9 | 21 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 2 |
| 4 | | Robert Hallett, | 32 | | Ditto, | 11 | | 60 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 16 | 16 |
| 5 | | William Gray, | 41 | | Ditto, | 9 | | 40 | 30 | 24 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 7 |
| 6 | | William Taylor, | 27 | | Single, | 1½ | | 25 | 15 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| 7 | | Henry Carvell, | 19 | | Ditto, | 36 | | 35 | 23 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | Wakefield. | Ivory Kilburn, | 18 | | Ditto, | 4½ | | 35 | 17 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 8 |
| 9 | | Thomas D. Stokoe, | 54 | | Married, | 3 | | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | £355 | 174 | 174 | 129 | 119 | 109 | 98 | 105 |
| | | | | | | | | 1,700 | 174 | 174 | 129 | 119 | 109 | 98 | 105 |
| | | | | | | | | 1,572 | 174 | 174 | 129 | 119 | 109 | 98 | 105 |
| | | | | | | | | 677 | 174 | 174 | 129 | 119 | 109 | 98 | 105 |
| | | | | | | | | 912 | 174 | 174 | 129 | 119 | 109 | 98 | 105 |
| | | | | | | | | 895 | 174 | 174 | 129 | 119 | 109 | 98 | 105 |

Carried forward,