

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OF THE PROVINCE OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 31st,  
1874.

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BY THE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

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WITH APPENDICES.

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VICTORIA:  
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1874.

EDUCATION OFFICE, VICTORIA,

*September 30th, 1874.*

SIR:

In conformity with the School Act, I have the honor to forward herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, my Report on the Public Schools of British Columbia for the year ending 31st July, 1874. Statistical Tables and Appendices are added to the Report, illustrative of the means which have been adopted by the Board of Education for the promotion of the educational interests of the Province.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

JOHN JESSOP,

*Superintendent of Education.**Hon. John Ash, M. P. P.,**Provincial Secretary.*

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PART I.

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GENERAL REPORT.

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# THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st JULY, 1874.

To His Excellency the Honorable JOSEPH W. TRUTCH, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

IN presenting to Your Excellency my Third Annual Report on the condition of the Public Schools of British Columbia, it is my gratifying duty to state that the educational progress for the year has been very satisfactory. The statistical tables exhibit a decided increase in the number of children attending the schools, as well as improvements in many other respects. I beg to offer a brief summary of those statistical tables, as follows:

### *Schools, Attendance, Books, &c., &c.*

TABLE A.—This table shews an increase of 217 children in attendance at the Public Schools over last year, and 711 over that of 1872. The number enrolled on the School Registers, as having attended some portion of the year, is 1245. The number of children of school age in the several districts is, approximately, 2039, to which may be added about 200 not included in any district, making, probably, 2250 as the aggregate of school-going children. Want of proper census returns prevents me from ascertaining, accurately, the number of children in the Province. The returns made from all the outlying districts are correct, or nearly so. It is only in Victoria and the surrounding neighbourhood that accurate returns cannot be obtained. Not knowing how many school-going children there are in Victoria, nor the number attending the private and denominational schools, it is impossible to find out how many are not attending anywhere. Thus one of the most important statistics is, at present, unattainable. Last year, and also in 1872, I addressed a circular to the Principals and Teachers of the different schools, not under the Education Department, asking for the number of pupils on their Registers, so as to make up this statistic approximately, but from several of them no replies were received. In the returns from the districts the sexes number as follows:—Boys, 750; girls, 495. There are 287 in First Readers, 229 in second, 263 in third, 269 in fourth, 141 in fifth; 901 in Arithmetic; 521 in Geography; 529 in English Grammar; 213 in History; 978 in Writing; 884 in Dictation; 45 in Book-keeping; 18 in Mensuration; 36 in Algebra; 12 in Euclid; 23 in Natural Philosophy; 179 in Linear Drawing; 9 in Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene; 518 in Vocal Music; and 224 in other branches, chiefly needle and fancy work. In comparing the above figures with the corresponding ones of last year's Report, it will be found that the chief increase is in the third, fourth, and fifth Readers, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, History, Vocal Music, Writing, and Dictation. There has been a slight falling off in the comparatively few engaged in Mensuration, Algebra, Euclid, Natural Philosophy, and Physiology.

TABLE B shows that there are 32 Teachers in the employ of the Department—17 males and 15 females. Of those, 14 are returned as English, 6 Scotch, 2 Irish, 8 Canadian, and 2 American. Four hold first class A. certificates of qualification; four, first class B.; four, second class A.; four, second class B.; two, third class A.; and one, third class B.; leaving thirteen not certificated. Amount paid for teachers' salaries during the year, \$22,219 50—an increase of \$2252 over last year; highest salary paid was \$100, and lowest \$40, per month.

TABLE C.—New school houses have been erected at Colwood, Cedar, and Cache Creek, making a total of 28 now returned as public property. Four buildings are still rented for school purposes, at a monthly rental of \$34, namely, one in Victoria at \$20 per month, one in Esquimalt at \$4, one in Hope at \$5, and one in Lillooet at \$5. Two Court houses are occupied as school rooms—one at North Cowichan, and the other in Lytton. The school house in Granville is the property of the Hastings Mill Company, but is occupied rent free. Total number of school visits returned, 346.

TABLE D exhibits a still further improvement with regard to uniformity in the use of authorized text books, and in the supply of blackboards. Each of the schools has just been furnished with a set of new maps and a terrestrial globe.

TABLE E.—We find from this table that \$22,219 50 has been expended for salaries of teachers; \$2207 11 for incidental expenses; \$384 62 for insurance on school property; \$487 50 for rents; \$9988 35 for building, repairing, fitting up, and furnishing school houses; total for all the districts, \$35,287 59; amount on hand in the various districts, \$973 10. In the above figures, we have a decrease of \$136 in the item of rents, as compared with last year, and \$3818 22 on building, &c., while there is an increase of \$401 20 in the amounts on hand, so far as heard from. The actual school work has been more expensive than last year, in consequence of the larger number of schools in the Province, as the increased amount paid for teachers' salaries shews; but the decrease in the amount expended for building school houses, &c., reduces the sum total below that of last year.

TABLE F.—From this table it will be found that the lowest cost per pupil, per annum, is \$13 02 in Victoria; and the highest, \$55 56 per pupil, for about eight months' tuition, in Lake District. The cost per pupil in North Saanich was very high, being \$64 98 for eleven months. The average cost per pupil, throughout the Province, for the year, was \$21 46, a gratifying decrease of \$13 20, or more than 38 per cent.

TABLE G.—Authorized school books, to the amount of \$445 14, were supplied the different schools during the year; books remaining unsold on 31st July last, \$207 69; sold during the year, \$320 07; supplied *gratis* to pupils, \$15 03; amount paid to the Department, \$230 31; still due, \$90 45.

TABLE H.—The amount expended for school books during the year was \$686 92; for maps and terrestrial globes, supplied schools as furniture, \$500; freight, charges, insurance, &c., \$181 34; making a total of \$1368 31. Books in stock July 31st, \$659 97; in the different districts, \$207 69; making a total of \$867 66 on hand. Total expenditure in Education Department for the year ending July 31st, 1874, \$39,550 10.

#### *Want of interest in Schools by Trustees and Parents.*

In many districts, a deplorable want of interest is manifested by Trustee Boards and parents in the success and progress of their schools. It is difficult, in some instances, to get their Annual Reports even imperfectly filled up; while the teacher is left entirely to his or her own devices, not only in the conduct of the school, but in many things that ought to be looked after by the Trustees. Willingness to co-operate with the Government in keeping the school buildings in repair, or improving them, seems to be diminishing rather than increasing; so much so, that if a tree in a dangerous position requires to be cut down, a log rolled out of the way, a piece of fencing to be done, or a picket to be nailed up, the school grant must be taxed to do it. I have often been met with the reply, when suggesting the propriety of those interested, or who ought to be interested in the success of public schools, doing something in aid of preparing a lot for the erection of a school house, putting up a wood shed, or making a piece of fencing,

"Oh, the Government should pay for everything, they are well able to do it." People seem to forget that, in other Provinces and Countries, there is such a thing as direct and even local taxation for educational purposes, and that the manifestation of such a spirit may, sooner or later, induce the Government and Legislature to consider the advisability of levying such a tax; not only for the purpose of increasing the revenue of the Province, but to give trustees, parents, and others a direct interest in curtailing expenditure and economizing school funds. It may be argued, that trustees spend considerable time gratuitously in looking after school business, and that, in many cases, they are not supported as they ought to be by parents. This will hardly be denied; yet, in every district, people should remember that an efficiently conducted public school not only enhances the value of their property very considerably, but is also a great inducement for other families to settle amongst them. For these reasons, if from no higher motive, every individual, whether a parent or not, should feel a personal interest in public school work. If Trustee Boards would spend one-tenth of the time on school business that Councils devote to corporation and municipal work, those matters would be much better looked after than they are at present. But are not public schools, where the children are being trained for the duties of after life, of infinitely more importance than streets, roads, and bridges? There are a few Trustee Boards in the Province to whom these remarks do not apply. It is a great satisfaction to co-operate with these *working* Boards in promoting educational interests; while on the other hand it is correspondingly discouraging to transact business with Boards that take but little interest in the welfare of pupils and teachers, and in the good condition of school premises. There is room for great improvement in these respects; and it is to be hoped that it will be speedily brought about.

### High Schools.

The question of High Schools is one that ought not to be left any longer in abeyance. Boys and girls in many parts of the Province are getting ahead of the public school curriculum; not that the teachers in our principal schools are unable to give instruction in the higher branches of an English education, and to make the senior pupils of both sexes much more proficient than they now are; but that it is extremely difficult to advance classes beyond a certain point in any branch of study, on account of the constant drafting of pupils from a lower to a higher grade, and the comparatively few who have opportunity or inclination to proceed further with their studies after becoming tolerably proficient in the highest class in school. Provision should be made, whereby those who are desirous of prosecuting their studies further, can have the privilege of doing so without being obliged to leave the Province. The time has fully come when two High Schools—one in Victoria, and the other in New Westminster—should be established. Each might be commenced with one properly qualified master, and the teaching staff afterwards increased as the attendance might warrant.

In this connection, I beg to recommend that immediate steps be taken by the Government and Legislature to secure Government House, New Westminster, for High School purposes. It would require but little fitting up, in order to make it a very commodious school building and Principal's residence, with excellent accommodation for twenty or twenty-five boarders; the grounds and quiet surroundings are also admirably adapted for such use. A reconveyance of these premises to the Local Government by the Dominion authorities, for a High School, would be a most valuable acquisition; and certainly they could not be applied to a better purpose, or one more worthy of encouragement by all concerned.

Those schools would do good service as Training Institutes for teachers, till such time as the number of our school districts would warrant the establishment of a Provincial Normal School. Dependence upon immigration for a supply of teachers is very precarious, as past experience fully proves. In the United States and Eastern Provinces, the average time that teachers remain in the profession is only three years. With this ratio we shall require twelve or fourteen new teachers annually, in order to keep up the teaching staff. Free tuition in the High Schools, with perhaps a little pecuniary aid, would be a great incentive to pupils of both sexes to seek admission, with a special view of passing the teachers' examination, and entering upon public school work. These proposed establishments would, therefore, for the present, answer the purposes of High Schools, Training Schools, and Model Schools.

The question as to whether High Schools should be entirely supported by the grant for educational purposes, or whether they should only be *aided*, is an open one, upon which I shall not enter. That poor but talented and deserving pupils should have easy admission to them, few will deny. It is quite a debatable point, however, as to how far the property of all ought to be taxed to pay for the higher education of a few.

### *Compulsory Education.*

No progress whatever has been made during the past year by Trustee Boards in the enforcement of the compulsory clauses of the School Amendment Act. I am not able to report the enactment of a single additional By-Law. Of the two only that have been passed, namely Comox and Sooke, one, at least, seems to be inoperative; for, with *twenty-three* children whose names appear on the District Register as having attended school some portion of the year, the average is less than *seven*. This shows a deplorable amount of irregularity, which, with non-attendance, were the two evils that compulsory education was expected to remove or materially reduce. I was very particular, last autumn, in urging upon Trustee Boards the necessity for general and regular attendance; more especially in outlying districts where schools are maintained with difficulty, and at great expense to the public revenue. In some districts promises were made that this important matter should have immediate attention; yet nothing in this direction has been done. Trustee Boards manifest great unwillingness to come in collision with their neighbours by attempting to enforce the law. In some districts they have absolutely refused to inaugurate compulsory measures; as they say they are desirous of living peaceably with their fellow-settlers. I have been often met with the plea that the Legislature should not have placed the responsibility on Trustee Boards of initiating By-Laws for prosecuting their neighbours and friends for non-compliance with the School Act; but that compulsory education should be made general and enforced by the Government, and thus relieve them of the disagreeable duty of incurring the hostility and ill-will of neighbours and friends. The School Amendment Act, or the compulsory clauses thereof, in their present shape, are, and will remain, a dead letter. There is no power vested anywhere to oblige Trustees to comply with the requirements of the law. Even if this power did exist, the attempt to exercise it must prove abortive, as no one would then be found willing to undertake the duties of trustee. The difficulty can only be overcome by making the compulsory clauses general in their application, defining the number of years, and the number of months in each year, that every child shall attend some school, or otherwise obtain a certain amount of education, and incorporating these clauses with the provisions of the Act, and penalties attached for their violation. It may be worthy of consideration as to whether a parent neglecting or refusing to send his children to school should not be deprived of his right to vote at elections, and be deemed legally ineligible for any office, however humble.

### *The Boarding School.*

This establishment, the building for which was erected last year at the junction of Cache Creek with the Bonaparte River, was formally opened on the 2nd June, last. The school had been going on for some days previously, while arrangements were being made for the opening; eighteen pupils, of both sexes, were then enrolled. The number has since increased to thirty-six, about as many as the building can accommodate.

The success of the Boarding School experiment is now placed beyond a doubt. It is the settled conviction of almost every person in the upper country who has given the subject any consideration, that there is no other feasible method of bringing educational facilities within reach of the widely scattered families in the interior; so far separated from each other as to render it impracticable to get a dozen children together at any one point for day school purposes. While on my tour east of the Cascades, last spring, I found six children of school age about midway between Lytton and Lillooet, and some twenty miles from each place. Forty or fifty miles above Lillooet, at Big Bar Creek, there are six or seven more. At Dog Creek, twenty-five miles further, where I was given to understand a School District could be formed, I found only nine. In the neighbourhood of Alkali Lake, eighteen miles from Dog Creek, there are four; and on the opposite side of the Fraser, for a stretch of several miles, may be found about the same number. Twenty-two miles higher up, at Chimney Creek, and seven miles further, at Williams Lake, there are eight or nine more that ought to be under instruction. At

Deep Creek, Soda Creek, Mud Lake, and near old Fort Alexander, there are three or four families numbering seven or eight children of school age; while at Quesnelmouth and vicinity there are eight, and at Barkerville nine. Down the waggon road, children are to be found in families of two or three, from three to twenty miles apart, all the way to Cache Creek. Along Lake La Hache Valley, a distance of about eighteen miles, eleven children are residing; but even there they are too much scattered for a day school. At Clinton, just after the completion of a neat little school house, two families moved away, which necessitated the discontinuance of the school, as only about five children old enough to attend were left. In the districts above-mentioned, there are probably nearly one hundred children spread over an area of at least 10,000 square miles, or about one child to 100 square miles of territory. East and south of Cache Creek, down to the United States Boundary Line, with the exception of the Mission Valley, Okanagan, and Nicola Valley, where day schools are being established, the same degree of isolation exists, and about as many more children may be found, spread over as large an extent of country. As Barkerville and Lytton schools are likely to be discontinued, in addition to Clinton, there seems no probability of the maintenance of a single day school all the way from Yale to Cariboo, and from Hope to Osoyoos, with the exception of Lillooet, Okanagan, and Nicola. Boarding schools will be found fully equivalent to day schools for all that the buildings can accommodate, as children are there boarded for about what they would cost at home; while in the boarding school they have the advantage over day pupils in enjoying greater facilities for study, and are, moreover, under constant *surveillance* as to their conduct and demeanor.

The success of the boarding school scheme being assured, I feel no hesitation in strongly recommending that a sum of money be put down in the Estimates of next year for the erection of another building, of the same class as the one at Cache Creek, somewhere on the waggon road, within a few miles of Soda Creek. Such a school there would meet the wants of a large section of country, extending from the Green Timber to Dog Creek and Cariboo, including the west side of the Fraser and Chilcotin. Buildings large enough to accommodate about forty children are better adapted to the wants of the interior than more extensive ones, as the latter must necessarily embrace a wider extent of territory. With the smaller class, parents and guardians would scarcely be more than a long day's ride from their children in cases of emergency, such as severe sickness, accident, &c., while a teacher and his wife, with sufficient domestic help, can efficiently manage as many as can be accommodated in such buildings, together with as many day scholars as each locality might be able to furnish.

#### *Teachers' Convention.*

It affords me great pleasure to report the inauguration of a Teachers' Convention for British Columbia. Pursuant to notice, a meeting was held on the 9th July, in the Legislative Assembly Hall, the Honorable the Provincial Secretary in the chair. After some preliminary discussion on the object and uses of such an association, in which several gentlemen took part, the following officers were elected for the current year:—President, the Superintendent of Education; Vice-Presidents, Hon. Dr. Ash, Provincial Secretary, Rev. Mr. Mason, Principal of Collegiate School, and Robert Williams, Esq., M.A.; Secretary, C. C. McKenzie, Esq., Principal of Boys' Department of Public School, Victoria; Treasurer, J. A. Halliday, Esq., Principal of Public School, New Westminster. It is proposed to hold the first meeting of the institute in July next, during the time of the annual teachers' examination, when lectures and addresses will be delivered, papers read, and discussions held on various subjects connected with education and the different methods of teaching. Our entire school system will also pass under review, year by year, by teachers and others interested in educational progress, and its merits and demerits thoroughly discussed.

Among the first beneficial results which I anticipate from the establishment of this convention is the attainment of more uniformity in the methods of teaching. At present the systems prevailing in this Province are as diverse as the nationalities of the teachers. Annual meetings will soon accomplish a great deal in this direction, especially when aided by proper training in the High Schools, as has been suggested. In order to insure the success of the Teachers' Institute, a portion, at least, of the travelling expenses of teachers must be paid. This would not amount to much—probably \$150 or \$200—as more than a third of them are employed in Victoria and the immediate vicinity.



### *Scarcity of Trained Teachers.*

Want of properly trained teachers is a great drawback to the efficiency of the Public Schools in the Province. Among the thirty-six teachers in the employ of the Department during the past year, only eight have undergone a regular training for the profession. Perhaps as many more have had, in various parts of the world, some little experience in teaching before taking charge of schools in British Columbia. More than one-half of the teachers were new to the work when they commenced their duties here. A few of these are already good practical teachers, while others bid fair to become such; but some are still very deficient in those qualities and attainments which constitute the efficient and successful trainer of youth. It was fully expected that before this time we would have had a sufficient number of trained and qualified teachers to put an end to all temporary arrangements entered into for the purpose of keeping schools in operation. Such, however, has not been the case. At the present time there are more schools under unqualified teachers than at the date of my last Report. The Board of Education find it impossible to comply with Section 33 of the "Public School Act, 1872," which says that "No person shall be appointed a teacher in any Public School, unless he shall hold a first, second, or third class certificate of qualification from the Board of Education." Were they to carry out this provision rigidly ten or eleven of our schools would be closed for want of teachers. This state of things will continue until a stronger tide of immigration sets in, bringing teachers with it; or till we can educate and train them for the work here, or offer such salaries as will induce professional teachers to settle in the Province. My application to the Normal School, Toronto, last spring, for seven or eight certificated second class male and female teachers failed, because salaries varying from \$50 to \$70 per month were not considered sufficient inducement. But here a difficulty occurs, which is a serious one, namely, the very small number of children in a majority of our outlying districts. Fifty dollars per month, our minimum salary for a qualified teacher, is really insufficient pay on this coast; yet, as Table F shows, when this salary is divided by the number of children attending many of our schools, the cost per pupil is enormously heavy. As the school children increase, in the districts outside of our towns and cities, so will salaries; so that in a few years, it is to be hoped, our fifty dollar salaries will be as much the exception as they are now the rule. Assuming that all our schools were under duly qualified teachers, the average salary in British Columbia would be something over \$60 per month; more than a hundred per cent. higher than the average in Ontario and other Eastern Provinces, as well as in many of the States, New York included. While our salaries are lower than could be wished, yet they compare very favourably with what teachers obtain elsewhere; and should, one would think, when taken in connection with the numerous advantages enjoyed here with regard to climate and natural resources, secure for us an ample supply of good teachers.

### *New Districts, &c.*

During the year, I have to report the formation of nine new School Districts, besides the Boarding School District of Cache Creek. Those Districts are Colwood, Cedar, Burgoyne Bay, and Wellington, on Vancouver Island; and Trentan, Maple Ridge, York, Nicola, and Okanagan, on the Mainland. In three of these, namely Colwood, Burgoyne Bay, and Cedar, new school houses have been erected, and in all the others they will be built during the autumn. The total number of School Districts now in the Province, including the Boarding School, is 37, namely 19 on Vancouver Island, as follows:—Victoria, Esquimalt, Craigflower, Colwood, Metchosin, Sooke, Lake, Cedar Hill, South Saanich, North Saanich, South Cowichan, North Cowichan, Burgoyne Bay, Salt Spring Island, Gabriola Island, Cedar, Nanaimo, Wellington, and Comox; and 18 on the Mainland, as follows:—Granville, Burrard Inlet, Trentan, New Westminster, Maple Ridge, York, Langley, Sumass, Chilliwack, Hope, Yale, Lytton, Lillooet, Clinton, Barkerville, Nicola, Okanagan, and Cache Creek. In 1872 the districts numbered 22 only, an increase of 17 in two years, or nearly 80 per cent.

### *Teachers' Examination.*

The annual examination of applicants for certificates of qualification as teachers was held from the 6th to 10th July, inclusive, in the Legislative Assembly Hall, which was kindly granted for that purpose by the Honorable the Speaker and the Chief Com-

missioner of Lands and Works. Thirteen candidates presented themselves for examination—eight ladies and five gentlemen—of whom eleven obtained certificates in the different grades. There were three First Class A, one First Class B, three Second Class A, two Third Class A, and two Third Class B. A list of duly qualified teachers will be found in Appendix E.

#### *Rules respecting Teachers' Salaries.*

In Appendix B will be found the Rules adopted by the Board of Education, in March last, for the regulation of teachers' salaries. It was thought highly desirable to make salaries depend somewhat on average attendance, as is the case in many other countries. The minimum salary under these regulations is \$600 per annum for qualified teachers, ranging all the way up to \$1,200. As school-going children and average attendance increase, so will salaries to \$720, \$840, \$960, &c., per annum.

#### *Inspection of Schools, &c.*

For purposes of School Inspection and visiting sections of the Interior where new districts were contemplated, I travelled 1200 miles by steamer, 425 by canoe, 540 by stage, 1255 on horseback, and 184 on foot, making a total of more than 3600 miles during the year. I have also to report 84 school visits—an increase of 20 over last year.

Since the date of my last Report, 516 official letters have been received at the Education Office, and 587 written. During the year, the Board of Education have held fifteen meetings for the transaction of business connected with the Department, at many of which all the members were present.

It now becomes my duty to report briefly the progress and present condition of each of the District Schools.

VICTORIA.—The Public Schools in this city—both Boys' and Girls' Departments—are steadily gaining in numbers and public favor. The boys' school, under Messrs. McKenzie, Clemitson, and Pleace, has reached a daily attendance of 132. The girls' school, conducted by Mesdames Hayward, Baxter, and Caldwell, has numbered as high as 161 for the day. It was found necessary, in early summer, to appoint a third teacher in the boys' department; the attendance being quite beyond the power of two teachers to do justice to. To the programme of studies is now added Vocal Music, which is made both entertaining and useful, and in which the boys, under Mr. Pleace, have already made considerable progress. Both the schools are in a very efficient state; and all the teachers fully merit the high opinion and confidence which parents and guardians entertain for them.

The girls are still closely confined in the inconvenient and badly ventilated building on Broughton Street; with scarcely a foot of breathing room outside the school house, except on the public street. In the heat of summer the close, impure atmosphere in the building, and in the rear of it, cannot be otherwise than deleterious to the health of both pupils and teachers; while in the cold and damp of winter the absolute necessity for so many open windows generates violent colds, which are equally, if not more injurious. Better accommodation must be provided, at an early day, for the constantly increasing number of pupils seeking admission to the girls' department of the public school. The erection of a first-class building, on the School Reserve, for Public and High School purposes, ought not to be much longer delayed. A special grant from the general revenue of the Province, for this purpose, liberally supplemented by the Municipal Council from the city funds, would enable the Trustee Board to remedy an evil, before the close of 1875, that ought never to have had an existence; and one which affects the health and comfort of one or more members of a great number of families.

ESQUIMALT.—There was another change in the teachership of this school in May last, occasioned by the removal of Mr. Pleace to the boys' school in Victoria. It is now under the temporary management of Miss C. Bayley. The attendance has improved of late, though not yet anything like what it ought to be. Great lack of interest has been manifested by parents and guardians in the success and well-being of the school; so much so, that it was found impracticable to get a sufficient number of householders together, last January, to elect a trustee. Two or three meetings were called, and those

being attended by the trustees only, the attempt was ultimately abandoned—the outgoing trustee consenting to occupy a seat at the Board in order to keep up the legal number.

**CRAIGFLOWER.**—My hopes of improvement in this school—one of the most important in the Province, outside of the cities and towns—have not, I am sorry to say, been realized. The same want of attention to school work, carelessness with regard to the condition of the school house and its surroundings, negligence of personal appearance, and other habits quite incompatible with the proper discharge of his duties, still characterize the teacher. He has been holding the teachership in violation of the School Act since July, 1873, having declined to undergo an examination for two consecutive years. The educational interests of the children have been, and are still being, sacrificed to a desire, on the part of a few, to keep him in the school. A change in the teachership is absolutely necessary; and the sooner it takes place the better for all concerned.

**COLWOOD.**—A new district, comprising portions of Craigflower and Metchosin Districts. The following are its boundaries:—"All that tract of land within a line commencing at the North end of Parsons' Bridge; then following Rowe Stream to the boundary line between Sections 97 and 98; thence in a Northerly direction, along the Eastern boundary of Section 98, to the boundary between Highland and Esquimalt Districts; thence Westerly, along said boundary line, to the North-west corner of Section 14; thence South-westerly, to the South-east corner of Section 100; thence in a South-easterly direction, to the South-west corner of Section 51; thence along the section line, between Sections 50 and 51, to the shore at Royal Bay; thence North-easterly, along the shore line, to the Southern end of Parsons' Bridge; thence along the said bridge to the point of commencement." When this district was established, and the contract for building the school house awarded, there were more than twenty children of school age within its boundaries. Removals from Belmont Boot and Shoe Factory—for the benefit of which the district was created, principally—and from other places, have reduced this number to less than ten. Hence, the Board of Education have not thought it advisable to open the school for the present. As soon, however, as ten or twelve children can be collected together for regular attendance the school will be commenced in the neat little school house erected last spring.

**METCHOSIN.**—Parents of children in this district are making praiseworthy efforts to keep their school in operation. With the exception of one family, all the children of school age attend with great regularity and punctuality. The average for the past year was eleven in a school population of about fourteen, two of whom have not been enrolled on the Register since a change of teachers occurred, twelve months ago. The school is efficiently conducted by Miss Lindsay, who, as a teacher, is industrious and painstaking. The commodious school house and grounds are well looked after by the trustees.

**SOOKE.**—The little school in this district is still flourishing, although three changes have occurred in the teachership since the date of my last Report. Mrs. Miles, last autumn, was succeeded by Miss Mahood, who gave place to Mrs. Perrie at the beginning of the year; and when the latter resigned at the midsummer vacation, Miss Irvine, one of our newly qualified teachers, received the appointment. Considerable interest is manifested in education by trustees and parents; and, with two or three exceptions, all the children are regular in their attendance at school.

**CEDAR HILL.**—The school here ranks No. 5, in point of numbers, among the schools of the Province. Two changes of teachers have occurred during the year; Mr. T. C. Jones succeeding Mr. G. Pottinger in January, and on the removal of the former to Cache Creek Boarding School, at the beginning of May, Mr. James Kaye, one of our first-class men at the last examination, took charge. These changes are always more or less of a drawback to the progress of pupils, and I hope it may be a long time before another takes place in this interesting school—interesting, not only with regard to numbers, but also with regard to educational attainments—many of the pupils being well advanced in English grammar, geography, and mathematics. This is the first and only school in the Province, so far, to send out a teacher from among its pupils—one of them having obtained a certificate of qualification at our last examination, who received

all her education in this district school. Under the efficient management of the present teacher, the school will lose none of its prestige, but, on the contrary, add very materially to it.

**LAKE.**—School matters in this district are in a very unsatisfactory condition. There are only ten or eleven children of school age, and those have been neither regular nor punctual in attendance. There is also a great want of unanimity among parents and others who ought to be interested in education, which makes it very unpleasant for the teacher; and has been the main cause of the frequent changes which have distinguished this school—there having been no less than six in two years. The school was closed in February of last year, on account of the attendance being so small; it was, however, re-opened the following May. For the past year, the teacher's salary has been \$60 per month—ten dollars per month more than the district was entitled to—in order, if possible, to make things work more smoothly. In this, however, the expectations of the Board of Education have not been realized. In consequence, therefore, of the want of interest manifested by parents and trustees, the falling off in attendance, and the fact that the teacher would not conduct the school at a lower rate of salary, the Board considered it advisable to again close the school. This may be but temporarily, as an expression of willingness on the part of the heads of families to send all the children to school regularly, would meet with the favourable consideration of the Board of Education; and arrangements might then be made for a re-opening, at a rate of salary proportionate to the attendance.

**SOUTH SAANICH.**—With fifty-seven names of children on the school register of this district as having attended some portion of the year ending 31st July, the average only reached eighteen. This shows a great amount of negligence on the part of parents, which, if persisted in, will reduce the salary of the teacher from \$70 per month to \$50. It ought not to be difficult to secure an average of over thirty—with sixty children of school age in the district,—indeed, with this number, the attendance should reach an average of more than forty, and thus secure for the teacher a salary of \$80 per month. The school is efficiently, and therefore satisfactorily, conducted by Mr. John Mundell, who succeeded Mr. Wilson in April last. With a good teacher, a well-furnished and commodious school house, centrally located and easy of access, I hope to be able to report great improvement in attendance at the close of the next school year.

**NORTH SAANICH.**—After a trial of nearly twelve months, the school in this district had to be discontinued on account of there being so few pupils in attendance. As the trustees have neglected to send in their Annual Report, I am not able to state exactly the number of school-going children; but there must be between twenty and twenty-five. For the same reason, I cannot tell what the average attendance for the year has been; but probably not more than six. On the 3rd December last, I found seven children at school—all that were on the register, it being examination day. On my next visit, April 14th, there were five, one of whom was under school age. The persistent refusal of two heads of families, representing at least seven children of school age, neither of whom are more than two and a half miles from the school house, to send their children to the school, prevents its being re-opened. The responsibility, therefore, of a closed school rests upon these parties. The district was established on 30th August, 1872, but the boundaries were changed, in accordance with a petition from the settlers, on the 3rd October last, by the following *Gazette* notice:—

“Whereas by a notice, dated 30th August, 1872, the Saanich School District was defined as comprising all of South Saanich, and such portion of the District of North Saanich as lies between a straight line drawn from Saanich Arm to Bagan Bay, along the centre of the road crossing the district at Brown's Farm, and the North boundary of the District of South Saanich, as laid down in the official map; and whereas by a notice, dated 28th September, that part of the District of North Saanich which lies to the North of the said road by Brown's Farm, was created a school district; and whereas it is desirable to alter and amend the dividing line between the Districts of North and South Saanich: Notice is hereby given, that the Districts of North and South Saanich are hereby created separate School Districts, under the respective titles of the District of North Saanich and District of South Saanich, and that the boundary line between such Districts shall be the boundary of these Districts as laid down in the official map of the said Districts.”

**SOUTH COWICHAN.**—After the resignation of Mr. Rogers as teacher in this district, in March last, it was considered advisable to discontinue the school until the roads improved, as they were then almost impassable with snow. During the spring, however, four families moved away, and reduced the number of school-going children so much as to render a re-opening unjustifiable, as there were not more than eight left, about six in the Kokasalah portion of the district, and only two on the Shawnigan side, or Harris's

**NORTH COWICHAN.**—Educational facilities are now brought within reach of all the children in this large and scattered district, by the opening of a school in the Court house near Cowichan Flats, in addition to the one between Somenos and Maple Bay. All the children in the district are attending the schools as regularly as can be expected. Two or three changes of teachers have retarded their progress somewhat; yet, on the whole, it has been very satisfactory. The trustees are fully alive to the importance of their public schools, and are actively promoting their interests in every possible way.

**BURGOYNE BAY.**—District established on 3rd October, 1873, with the following boundaries:—"All that tract of land within a line commencing at a point about midway "between the head of Ganges Bay and Beaver Point, on the South side; thence running "Westerly, along the summit of the Otter Range, to the seashore; thence following the "shore line, Southerly, to the point of commencement, and including Moresby, Russell, "and Portland Islands." The school is still under the temporary management of Mrs. Holmes. There has been a fair average attendance during the year, and satisfactory progress has been made in all the branches taught.

**SALT SPRING ISLAND.**—The school here has dropped below the average required for a salary of \$50 per month for the teacher. It is still in charge of Mr. J. C. Jones, but again under a temporary arrangement. The condition of the school can hardly be considered satisfactory. The rules and regulations with regard to the hours of teaching are not carried out; nor are the pupils as far advanced, especially in arithmetic, geography, and grammar, as they ought to be. There are twelve children of school age in the middle settlement, and eight in the northern or Begg's settlement. Another school house in this neighbourhood has been in course of erection since last spring, for which the sum of \$100 was granted under the British Columbia School Ordinance, repealed by the "School Act, 1872." An effort will be made to provide those eight children with tuition, as soon as the school house shall have been completed.

**GABRIOLA ISLAND.**—This school is just entering upon its second year of usefulness, under Mr. J. E. L. Seneker. The pupils are regular in their attendance, and are making rapid progress in their studies. When the school was opened, a year ago, all the children of various ages commenced with the First Book of Lessons. A short time since, they were supplied with Third Readers, arithmetics, geographies, &c. Educational facilities are duly appreciated in this district; trustees and parents act in concert with the teacher, thus securing the best possible return for moneys spent for school purposes.

**CEDAR.**—District established 11th February last; the following are its boundaries:—"All that tract of land within the lines commencing at a point at the South-east corner "of Cedar District; thence in a North-westerly direction, along the coast line, to the "mouth of Chase River; thence in a Southerly direction to the Northern boundary of "Cranberry District; thence in a Westerly direction to the North-western boundary of "Cranberry District; thence in a Southerly direction to the South-western boundary of "Cranberry District; thence in an Easterly direction to the point of commencement." A new school house was erected this summer, near the bridge over Nanaimo River. The school is just commenced, under the temporary management of Miss Stark.

**NANAIMO.**—I much regret my inability to give a favourable report of this very important school. Next to Victoria, in point of numbers, the children are entirely dependent on the public school, from the fact of there being no private educational institutions where they can attend. The continued inefficiency in its management, especially in the boys' department, is inflicting incalculable injury on the rising generation. The children are fast growing up, and many of them will soon enter upon the duties of life with an education so defective as to be out of all proportion to the sum of

money spent for school purposes during the past three or four years. The girls' department is lacking in school organization; but not in industry and painstaking on the part of the teacher; who has been and is doing the best she can with a school numbering some 60 or 70 pupils. The other department, but little more than half as large—although there are probably as many boys as girls in the town—is unsatisfactorily conducted in every respect; there is almost an entire absence of proper discipline and order; the method of teaching is defective, and not calculated to encourage the pupils in the prosecution of their studies. A want of energy and painstaking, on the part of the teacher, is painfully evident in all the school exercises. Imperfectly recited lessons, or lessons not recited at all; the backward condition of all the classes; and the very few branches of study in which the pupils are engaged, are conclusive proofs that a change in the management of the school has become an absolute necessity. While the children were crowded together in a small room, without desks or a sufficient number of seats, there was a reasonable excuse for inefficiency and want of progress. This excuse is no longer valid, as the building now occupied is the largest and most commodious in the Province. I have repeatedly urged upon the Trustee Board, both verbally and by letter, the necessity of making a change in the management and organization of their school, by securing the services of a first-class experienced teacher as Principal, and engaging one or, if the attendance would admit of it, both of the present teachers as assistants. By doing this, and grading the school, that is combining the classes irrespective of sex for teaching purposes, by which means one-half of the teaching power would be saved, the school would be put on a proper and efficient footing, and would soon become what it ought to be, namely, one of the best in the Province.

WELLINGTON.—This is another of the new districts, having been gazetted on the 2nd May last; the following are its boundaries:—"All that tract of land included within the lines, commencing at a point at the North-west corner of Wellington District, on the shore line; thence in a Southerly direction, along the Western boundaries of Wellington and Mountain Districts, to the section post between Sections 8 and 9, Range 1, Mountain District; thence Easterly, along said section line, to South-east corner of Section 9, Range 7; thence Northerly, to the boundary line of Mountain District; thence Easterly, along the Northern boundary of Mountain District, to the seashore at Departure Bay; thence Northerly and Westerly, along the shore line, to the point of commencement." A school house is about to be erected in the rapidly rising town of Wellington, where several families have already located. There is every probability of the school here soon becoming a large and flourishing one, as the demand for coal from this valuable mine is constantly on the increase; thus offering inducements for miners and artizans to settle there with their families. These inducements will be very materially increased by the establishment of a well-conducted public school.

COMOX.—The average attendance in this school has been very low for the past year, being, like that of South Saanich, only a third of the number enrolled on the register. With an industrious, well qualified teacher, and a new, commodious school house, this district ought to have furnished a more satisfactory record. Improved roads, and new bridges, will give families, at a distance from the school house, greater facilities for reaching it; which, it is to be hoped, will increase the average at least 100 per cent. during the incoming year. Unless a decided improvement in this respect takes place during the autumn, the salary of the teacher will have to be reduced in accordance with rules and regulations.

GRANVILLE.—Two changes of teachers, during the past year, have interfered considerably with the progress of this school. The Annual Report was sent in very imperfectly filled up, neither average attendance nor number of children of school age being given. Under the newly appointed teacher, Mrs. Cordiner, who holds certificates of qualification from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, a marked improvement may be expected. The boundaries of this and the adjoining district of Burrard Inlet were arranged last year. The *Gazette* notice, however, not being published in my last Report, I now append it:—

"Whereas the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is empowered under the 'Public School Act, 1872,' to create School Districts in addition to those already existing, and to define the boundaries thereof, and also to alter the boundaries of existing School Districts:

"And whereas the boundaries of the Burrard Inlet School District, as at present constituted, embrace the North and South sides of the Inlet:

“And whereas it is desirable that the South side should be created a separate School District:

“Notice is hereby given, that the boundaries of the Burrard Inlet School District shall be all that tract of land embraced within the circumference of a circle whose centre shall be the school house on the North side of the said Inlet, and whose radius shall be a distance of three miles from such school house; excepting always any of the land on the South side of the Inlet:

“Notice is also given, that a school district shall be and is hereby established on the South side of the said Inlet, to be called the ‘Granville School District;’ and that the boundaries of such district shall be all that tract of land embraced within the circumference of a circle whose centre shall be the school house on the South side of the said Inlet, and whose radius shall be a distance of three miles from such school house; excepting always any land on the North side of the said Inlet.”

**BURRARD INLET.**—The school in this district is considerably ahead of the one at Granville in point of numbers. A new and commodious school house has been built and occupied since the date of my last Report. The same energy of character, and painstaking devotion to her duties, on the part of the teacher, Mrs. M. Thain, are observable in the management and discipline of the school; the material progress of which, for the year, has been eminently satisfactory. Map and linear drawing, and fancy work, are among the branches taught, in all of which the pupils have made creditable advancement.

**TRENANT.**—A new district, on the South Arm of the Fraser River, established 3rd October, 1873, with the following boundaries:—“All that tract of land within a line commencing at the southern bank of the Fraser River, opposite Tilbury Island; thence running due south in prolongation of the dividing line of Ranges 4 and 5 West, Blocks 4 and 5 North, New Westminster District, to the sea shore at Boundary Bay; thence south-westerly, along the shore line, to the 49th parallel of latitude; thence along said 49th parallel to the sea shore at Roberts Bay; thence along the shore line, northerly, to Pelly Point, at the mouth of Fraser River; thence along the said southern bank of the Fraser River, to the point of commencement.” The inexhaustible fertile bottom lands extending from the Fraser to the Boundary Line are beginning to attract a little of the attention among immigrants and others which they so richly deserve. Several *bona fide* settlers—a few of them with families—have located in this district during the past year, and are now busily engaged in bringing their homesteads under cultivation. Others will soon follow their example, so that at the expiration of next year a large and flourishing school will, in all probability, be reported at Trentant.

**NEW WESTMINSTER.**—An entire change has been made, not only in the teaching but in the management of this important and flourishing school. On the resignation of Mr. Planta, in May last, Mr. Halliday, late of Yale, who holds a certificate of the highest grade, took charge. After the summer vacation, Miss McWha, late of Sumass, succeeded Miss Glyde. The graded system has been recently adopted, which, under the efficient management of Mr. Halliday as principal, will, no doubt, prove a complete success. A decided change for the better, in discipline and order, has already taken place, and from the well-known ability of the teachers, aided by the support and confidence of parents and guardians, who have ever taken an active interest in the success and progress of the Public School, great things are expected in the future. In these expectations, I fully believe, there will be no disappointment.

**MAPLE RIDGE.**—One of the new districts, located on the Fraser, nearly opposite and below Langley. The following are its boundaries:—“All that tract of land included within the lines commencing at the south-west corner of Section 3, Township No. 9, New Westminster District; thence in a northerly direction to the north-west corner of Section 34, Township No. 9, aforesaid; thence in an easterly direction to the north-east corner of Section 32, Township No. 12, New Westminster District; thence in a southerly direction to the point of intersection with the Langley School District; thence following the westerly boundary of the Langley School District to the northern boundary line of Townships 8 and 11, New Westminster District; thence westerly to the point of commencement.” A school house will be erected here during the autumn, with a view to opening the school next spring. The rapid improvement going on in this interesting settlement warrants the assumption that the school will soon become a large and flourishing one.

**LANGLEY.**—The attendance at this school has been remarkably good since last spring. Most of the children are merely beginners. They are, however, making satisfactory improvement under Mr. W. H. Burr, who still remains in charge of the school. Another district will soon have to be formed, seven miles from Langley on the Yale Road, where a flourishing settlement is springing up.

**YORK.**—This district, recently established at the head of Sumass Lake, comprises Township No. 19, New Westminster District. A school house will be erected before winter, when school will be commenced with fair prospects of success. At Matsqui, six or seven miles further west, preparations were made during the summer for the erection of a school house, as there are twelve or thirteen children in the settlement, some of them almost beyond school age, sadly in want of tuition. A difference of opinion, however, among the settlers, after the lumber and material were on the ground, respecting the site of the school house, prevented further progress. Unless they can agree upon a location, the building of the school house must be held in abeyance till such time as there may be a sufficient number of children to form a district under the School Act.

**SUMASS.**—The school in this flourishing agricultural district has made good progress during the year, under Miss McWha, who quite recently accepted the position of assistant in the New Westminster Public School. The school house is now completed and well furnished. The lot is also fenced, and a wood shed erected.

**CHILLIWHACK.**—The boundaries of this district, formerly extending from Sumass to Cheam, a distance of fourteen miles, have recently been readjusted, in order that the proper position for the school house might be ascertained. A few weeks ago the building was removed to its new site, and the school opened under Mr. Donald McMillan. The boundaries are as follows:—"All that tract of land, within the lines, commencing at a point at the north-eastern boundary of Sumass School District; thence southerly, following said boundary, to the base of the Sumass Range of Mountains; thence north-easterly, along the said range, for a distance of about six miles; thence in a northerly direction, crossing Elk Creek Bridge, to the Fraser River; thence westerly, to the point of commencement." Another district, extending from the north-eastern line of Chilliwack to Cheam, will soon have to be formed. A flourishing settlement is springing up in Mr. Gallander's neighbourhood, where another family or two, expected shortly, will make up more than the requisite number of children.

**HOPE.**—Attendance in this school, though in advance of last year, is still small. It remains under the temporary management of Mrs. Lethbridge. The pupils, chiefly beginners, have made fair progress.

**YALE.**—After the removal of Mr. Halliday to New Westminster, the school was vacant for two months for want of a teacher. Under Mr. Halliday it was among the most orderly and best conducted in the Province, and the pupils made rapid progress. Miss McDougall, a duly qualified teacher, is now in charge.

**LYTTON.**—Attendance at this school has been very small during the year. With a probability of a still further reduction of pupils in the autumn, the Board of Education thought it advisable to close the school. Its discontinuance, however, may be but temporary. Mrs. Good had charge till the end of July. Under her tuition the pupils, at least those of them that attended with any degree of regularity, made rapid progress.

**LILLOOET.**—This school has been well attended for the year. The average, however—fifteen—is less than fifty per cent. of the number enrolled. Mr. J. E. Lord, a good disciplinarian and an industrious teacher, is in charge temporarily, under whom the children, many of them beginners, have made satisfactory advancement.

**CLINTON.**—The removal of two families from this district, early last autumn, necessitated the closing of the school. Since then the trustees have not been able to secure a sufficient number of pupils for a re-opening.

**BARKERVILLE.**—The few children in attendance at this school made rapid progress till its close, in June last. Unless the number of children of school age in this district has increased since that time a re-opening would hardly be advisable.



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**NICOLA.**—Just established as a district, with the following boundaries:—"Bounded on the east by a line drawn north and south from the residence of William Charters in Nicola Valley, and extending on each side of the Nicola River to the natural boundaries of Nicola Valley; on the west by a line drawn north and south from the residence of Byron Earnshaw, and extending on each side of the Nicola River to the natural boundaries of Nicola Valley aforesaid, said western boundary being about nine miles distant from the eastern boundary; and on the north and south by the natural boundaries of the Nicola Valley."

**OKANAGAN.**—Also recently made a School District. The following are its boundaries:—"Commencing at a point at the mouth of Mission Creek; thence northerly along the shore of Okanagan Lake a distance of five miles; thence easterly a distance of five miles; thence southerly to Mission Creek; thence westerly to the point of commencement."

**CACHE CREEK.**—The Boarding School establishment here was spoken of more particularly in the paragraph of this Report under the head of "The Boarding School."

In conclusion, I may be allowed to state that the steady progress which our school system is making from year to year, and the firm hold which it has already obtained upon the good wishes and support of the community at large, warrants the assumption that under the fostering care of Your Excellency's Government the Public Schools of British Columbia—emphatically the schools of the people—will increase in efficiency and usefulness; extending their influence not only to the most remote settlements, but to every isolated family within our borders; till *all* the children shall obtain at least the rudiments of an English education, and thus banish ignorance and illiteracy from among the retarding agencies of our prosperity as a Province.

I have the honor to be  
Your Excellency's  
most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN JESSOP.

*Education Office, Victoria,  
September, 1874.*

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