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6 William IV – Chapter 12

An Act to provide for the establishment of Normal Schools. (21st March, 1836.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

Whereas in the Parishes, Seigniories [Seigneuries] and Townships of this Province, in which the number of Schools hath become much larger than it formerly was, the want of able Masters and Teachers is deeply felt, and in order that the liberal encouragement granted to public instruction by the Legislature may not be unavailing, it has become urgently necessary to provide for the establishment of Normal Schools from which Masters and Teachers properly qualified, may be procured;— May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, in North America,' And to make further provision for the Government of the said Province;" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that in the City of Quebec and in the City of Montreal, the Bishops, Vicars-General, Arch-Deacons, Rectors, Curates, Pastors and other Priests and Ministers of Religion, entitled to keep Registers for ascertaining the civil condition of the Inhabitants of the said Cities, the Superiors and Directors of the Colleges, and the Professors of Belles Lettres, Rhetoric and Natural History, in the said Colleges, the Judges of the Courts of King's Bench, the Members of the Legislature, resident in the District, and the Mayors of the said Cities shall meet in each of the said Cities respectively, after public notice, to be given by the Mayor immediately after the passing of this Act, by advertisement inserted in both languages in two Public Newspapers, appointing the place, day and hour of such meeting, which shall not take place until at least fifteen days after the date of such advertisement; and at such meeting the majority of the persons present shall proceed to appoint a Committee of ten Members, and such Committee shall have the establishment, organization and management of the Normal Schools aforesaid; Provided always, that in case of the death, absence or resignation of any of the Members of the said Committee of Management, the President thereof shall call a Meeting in the manner herein above prescribed, for the purpose of proceeding to fill the places of such Members.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Committee so chosen in each of the said Cities, shall elect from among its Members, a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and shall be called "The Committee of Management of the Normal School for the District of _____," and shall have the administration of the Normal

School established in each of the said Cities respectively, in the manner hereinafter provided, during five years from the date of the establishment of such School.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Committee of Management of the Normal School in each of the Districts of Quebec and Montreal, shall procure a sufficient place for keeping such School in or near the said Cities, and shall engage (for a term which shall not exceed five years,) Teachers and Professors, who shall furnish certificates of their good and regular moral conduct, possessing the knowledge, experience and qualifications necessary for conducting Institutions of this nature, and to enable them to instruct and form Masters both for the primary or elementary Schools in the country parts, and for the Superior or Model Schools, already established, or to be hereafter established in each Parish, Seigniorie [Seigneurie] or Township.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that so far as it shall be practicable and consistent with the knowledge previously possessed by the pupils, the course of study in such Normal Schools shall extend through three years, and shall include, among others, the studies herein after mentioned, that is to say:— French Grammar and English Grammar, with Exercises in writing and in Composition in each of the said languages; Arithmetic and Book-keeping, Geography and the Use of the Globes; the Elements of Practical Geometry, the Art of drawing Maps and Plans, the Elements of Chemistry as applied to Arts and Trades; the principles of Horticulture and agriculture; an abridged course of Mechanics, Natural History, Ancient and Modern History, Moral Philosophy, and the Public Law of the Country; and lastly and more especially, Theoretical and Practical lessons on the best mode of conducting a School, and the best method of teaching.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Committees of Management of the said Normal Schools, may respectively make such rules and regulations for the management and discipline of such Schools as they shall, after consulting the Chief Professor therein, deem most suitable.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Normal Schools shall be exclusively appropriated for the reception and instruction, free of expense, of such young persons as may be willing to devote themselves to teaching either in the Primary or Superior Schools, and also of such School Masters as may wish to complete their studies and to obtain instruction on the best method of teaching and of conducting a School; Provided always, that no person shall be admitted into any Normal School who shall not have attained the age of fourteen years, or who cannot prove his good moral character by a certificate signed by the Rector of his Parish, or a Minister of the religion he professes, or a Justice of the Peace, or Militia Officer of the place in which he resides, nor unless he can prove that he can read and write one or the other of the two languages, and is acquainted with the elements of Arithmetic; and in any case where it shall be ascertained that the pupil admitted to any Normal School, has not the means, and is in fact unable to provide himself with books and other articles of stationery necessary for going through the courses taught at the School, the Committee of Management is authorized to procure the same for him out of the funds

hereinafter appropriated to defray the contingent expenses of the said Schools. Provided always, that the said Pupils, their Guardians, or such School Masters as aforesaid, shall give the said Committee of Management, good and sufficient security, that after the period of their tuition, he or they shall and will either serve the public in the capacity of Teacher, for the space of at least five years, or refund the expense of his or their education to the said Committee of Management.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each Pupil who shall have gone through a Course of Study at the said Normal Schools, shall obtain a certificate signed by the President or Vice-President of the Committee of Management of the Normal School in which he shall have studied, countersigned by the Secretary of the Committee, and by the Chief Professor of the Normal School, attesting that, such person has studied in such School for a time named in the certificate, and having undergone a sufficient examination in the several branches of Education taught therein, was found able, and is in fact qualified to teach such and such branches of Education; and such certificate shall entitle the person receiving it to be employed in preference to others, in the Superior or in the primary Schools according to the nature of such certificate, and to receive the allowances granted by the Legislature for such Schools, according to the statute passed or to be passed in that behalf.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that so soon as the said Committee of Management of the said Normal Schools shall have been appointed and organized as hereinbefore provided, it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Person administering the Government of this Province for the time being, to advance to each of the said Committees of Management, by warrant under his hand and seal, out of any unappropriated monies in the hands of His Majesty's Receiver General, the sums hereinafter mentioned, that is to say: firstly, a sum not exceeding four hundred pounds currency, to enable each of the said Committees of Management to procure Professors qualified for the said Normal Schools, and to purchase the classical books, maps, instruments, furniture and other articles necessary for the School; and a further sum not exceeding six hundred pounds currency, to enable each of the said Committees to pay the salaries of the Professors and Assistant Professors who shall be employed in such Normal Schools; and a further sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds currency, to pay the rent, and for the warming, lighting and other annual contingent expences of each of the said Schools; the two sums last mentioned being payable yearly for five years, reckoning from the day when the said Schools shall go into operation; and lastly, a further sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty pounds currency, yearly, for three years, to enable each of the said Committees of Management to provide board and lodging for five or more Schoolmasters who shall be desirous of completing their studies in the said Normal Schools, and of learning therein the best method of teaching and conducting a School, but shall be unable and totally destitute of means to support themselves during the time they may be so studying.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Committee of Management shall annually lay before the Legislature, reports attested by the President and the Secretary of the said Committees of Management, and by the Chief Professor of the said

Normal Schools respectively; and such reports shall comprise a list of the names of the pupils actually taught at such School, with their age, residence, studies, progress, the date of their entry into the School, and the conditions of their admission, mentioning those whose board and lodging is paid for out of the monies appropriated for that purpose, and the amount so paid; also the names of the pupils who have left the School, and the nature of the certificates or qualification which may have been given them and such reports shall also shew the names of the Professors and Assistant Professors, what they respectively teach, and the conditions on which they are engaged, and the amount of their salaries; the number and distribution of the classes and the method of instruction, and the rules and regulations adopted for the management and discipline of the School; and such reports shall also shew the names of the Members of the Committee of Management, and of their Officers; and shall contain an inventory of the books, maps, instruments, and furniture belonging to the School, accompanied by an exact statement of the expences of the Institution; and lastly, all such other details and remarks as the Committee of Management shall deem requisite to enable the Legislature form a correct opinion on the slate of the Institution, and with regard to the improvement and modifications of which it may be susceptible.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the person administering the Government, by warrant under his hand, and out of the unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, to authorize the payment of the following sums, annually, for three years, that is to say; a sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty pounds currency, to the Ursuline Nuns at Quebec, for the board, lodging, and tuition of five or more young females, who shall be willing to devote themselves to teaching, and who shall not have the means of supporting themselves during the term of their studies; a further sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty pounds currency, to the Ursuline Nuns at Three Rivers [Trois-Rivières], for the same purpose; and a further sum of one hundred and twenty pounds currency, to the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame at Montreal, also for the same purpose; the said sums to be so paid on the recommendation of one of the Committees of Management of the Normal Schools hereby established; and the boarders who shall leave any of the said Communities, after obtaining a certificate from the Superior, attesting that they have undergone an examination in such and such branches of Education, and are qualified to teach the same, shall have the same rights and privileges as the pupils leaving either of the Normal Schools aforesaid.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person to whom shall be entrusted the expenditure of any portion of the monies hereby appropriated, shall make up detailed accounts of such expenditure, showing the sum advanced to the Accountant, the sum actually expended, the balance (if any) remaining in his hands, and the amount of the monies hereby appropriated to the purpose for which such advance shall have been made, remaining unexpended in the hands of the Receiver General; and that every such account shall be supported by Vouchers, therein distinctly referred to by numbers corresponding to the numbering of the Items in such account; and shall be made up to, and closed on the tenth day of April and tenth day of October in each year, during which such expenditure shall be made, and shall be attested before a Justice of the Court of King's Bench, or a Justice

of the Peace: and shall be transmitted to the Officer whose duty it shall be to receive such account, within fifteen days next after the expiration of the said periods respectively.

XII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that due application of the monies appropriated by this Act, shall be accounted for to His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, for the time being, in such manner and form as His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors shall direct; and that a detailed account of the expenditure of all such monies shall be laid before the several Branches of the Provincial Legislature within the first fifteen days of the next Session thereof.