

# REPORT FOR EASTERN SECTION.

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## Board of Education,

THURSDAY, March 30, 1865.

*Extract from Minutes of the Board.*

The Report of the Visitor of Schools for the Eastern Section of the Island, was this day laid before the Board, by a member. The details of the state of the Schools reported on, appear to be full, but the Board regrets that this report has not been received at an earlier period, so that it might have been transmitted to the Legislature in proper time.

Certified,

JOHN McNEILL, Sec'y.

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### *To the Board of Education:*

GENTLEMEN ;

In compliance with your "Order," I respectfully submit a *Precis* of my services in the last Quarter.

I visited forty-eight Districts which were not included in my last Report, as I was unable to complete the inspection of all the schools in my Circuit.

I found four schools vacant, and eight suspended; the Teachers absent had the sanction of their respective Trustees, with the exception of Mr. Angus McDonald, Big Cape, who had been remarkably irregular in his attendance. I remonstrated with R. McIntyre, Esq., chairman of the board of Trustees, to inform his colleagues of the notorious breach of trust imputed to them. I expressed surprise that they signed their Teacher's quarterly certificates, and I urged him to close their School-house, which was in a dilapidated condition.

The School in the adjacent District, Cable Head, was better attended by the master and scholars, who were *crammed* within a ship's *round-house*, I ordered this school to be also closed, until suitable accommodations would be provided. One of the Trustees who was present at the examination, promised to call a general meeting of the inhabitants, to devise ways and means to remedy this deplorable grievance.

I regret to have to report that, an *insufficient* school-house, is the *rule*, not the *exception*, in the section of districts to which this report refers.

In this condensed summary, I do not give the statistics in detail, as I intend to submit, in my next report, an exposition of the general method of teaching. I perceived a uniform, mechanical routine so prevalent, that I consider the common practice ought to be discontinued—and I will suggest such improvements as I suppose desirable and practicable. I also would respectfully invite your attention

to the policy of *cancelling agreements*, and of the concession of the privilege of "making up lost time." I know that inconvenience has resulted from the release of the Teacher from his engagement; and I think that the payment of salaries, subject to deductions for vacations, would cause the suspensions of schools to be "few and far between;" and would relieve the Secretary of your Board from extra calculations, in preparing his Schedule for the Executive Council, and also the Visitors from disappointment, in finding several schools closed. The Registers of the Schools which this synopsis embraces, exhibited an enrolment of 1140 pupils, and the aggregate attendance, when inspected, was, 678. The minutes of the general statistics shall be indicated in my next report.

No important changes have occurred in the City Schools, but I respectfully renew my suggestions in previous reports, recommending their classification; there are objections to this reform; but the theory is sound, and the organization proposed, practicable. At all events, the migration from school to school, should be regulated, if not prevented, and a system of promotion to classes established. All the schools are well attended and as efficiently managed as peculiar circumstances allow.

The attendance in the head Master's department, in the Normal School, 37—students, 22; pupils, 15; 10 in Latin and 8 in French. In the Preparatory School, taught by Miss McKinnon, there are 47 pupils—38 girls and 9 boys.

I am obliged to make special reference to Holidays—as there are no definite regulations prescribing the time or duration of vacations in the City Schools. In consequence of discord and discussion