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History 1120

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Document Analysis

The primary source I chose to write my research paper on is “Public Schools, City of Toronto. Report of The Past History and Present Condition, of The Common or Public Schools of The City of Toronto.” The article was written by the chairman, J.G Beard and the secretary, G.A Barber in order to be able to compare schooling in 1859 to present day and how it has evolved through the years.

This article touches on every aspect of schools, from the people who were considered school trustees, school disciplines, school attendance, different types of schools, the impact of school on parents and children, along with many more different rules and regulations. I think since the authors are a part of the school administration it makes the paper and sources more reliable because as a reader, you know what they’re writing is from first-hand experience with the educational system. If this was written a few years after it originally was, I think it would change the perspective the audience holds towards it because the topic of schooling and background information on it can be hard to come by. After reading this paper, it showed the reader that the chairman and secretary starring in this paper were passionate about schooling in Ontario and truly wanted to see the educational system flourish into what it is today. After reading the first few pages, you can tell that the separation between boys, girls, men and women is finally diminishing with time “…The entire absence of all uniformity action, as regards both the mode of teacher and the use of school books, together with the impossibility of having separate schools for boys and girls, (for, during the whole period of school sections, pupils of both sexes attended the same school, and were taught in the common by the same master).”

They also touch on how important organization is between different schools because if a child switches schools, they need to be able to be learn the same material or roughly the same. However, this has not carried to today, after travelling around for my dad’s job, I’ve been to many different schools, and it wasn’t just starting over when it came to friends but it was also starting over because the school curriculum was different overall, which (from personal experience) can make education more difficult or even put the student backwards when it comes to knowledge.

I think the purpose of this article was to show the readers of 1859 and present day, that the educational system will change from what it was but it will also have the same background rules and regulations. As well as, recording all the different rules they came up with. In my mind they recorded the new rules and regulations in order to check back on what to do in certain situations.

I’m really excited to learn more about the educational system in Ontario in 1859, what they involved as well as well as how they have evolved from what they were when they first opened and what they are today. I’m hoping that I’ll be able to compare the school system in Ontario, then and now, to schooling in British Columbia then and now. I’m also happy the topic based on residential schools didn’t work out because there wouldn’t have been enough information on the topic, whereas this topic contains a whole mini library based on the topic of schooling in Ontario and what it involves.