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The Canada School Journal

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.
Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.
Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.*

The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course, unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

During the past two months two very prominent educators have visited the office of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL; Dr. Ludwig Trieste, Deputy Minister of Education in Prussia, and Rev. Cyprian Pinkham, Chief Superintendent of Protestant Schools in Manitoba. Dr. Trieste has spent a couple of months in visiting the schools in the chief cities of America with a view of noting the differences in system and method to be seen here as compared with the schools of Prussia. He goes home with the conviction that so far as High Schools are concerned there is nothing for Prussia to learn in America, but that in some respects the Public Schools of this continent may be copied with advantage, even in Prussia. The High School course in Prussia is broad and exceedingly thorough. In classics it is more extensive than that of the University of Toronto.

Rev. Mr. Pinkham is visiting Ontario and other provinces with the view of studying the relation of the High Schools and Teacher-training Institutions to the Public Schools. Education is keeping pace fully, with the exceedingly rapid progress of other departments of work in Manitoba. Mr. Pinkham possesses in a marked degree the organizing and legislative faculties so essential in the Chief Superintendent of a young country. He holds clear and practical views concerning the scope and relationship of the different kinds of schools and colleges, and is establishing in Manitoba a system embodying the most excellent features of the systems of the older provinces of Canada. He is firm but liberal, cautious but progressive, scholarly but practical; he distinguishes accurately the educational from the utilitarian in school work, and makes due provision for both, so that Manitoba is certainly to be congratulated on her good fortune in having so vigorous and so judicious a man at the head of her educational work. Both these gentlemen visited the schools of Toronto, in company with Inspector Hughes, and both expressed surprise at the proficiency of the pupils, and the general condition of the schools. They were more especially impressed

with the superior character of the work done, particularly in the junior grades, in drawing, music, and calisthenics.

Rev. Mr. Pinkham will lecture in Toronto on his return, on "The Educational Outlook in Manitoba," and we will give our readers a complete statement of his views in the December JOURNAL.

REPORTS OF TEACHERS' CONVENTIONS.

We direct special attention to the report of the South Essex Teachers' Convention, which appears in another column. It is unquestionably a vast improvement on the usual form of report, and we are much indebted to Mr. Maxwell, the energetic Inspector, for setting so good an example. Our readers cannot fail to join us in our commendation and gratitude.

The reports of the proceedings at Teachers' Conventions might be made the most practical portion of an educational journal. They should embody the opinions of practical men and women all over the country, and if such reports as that of Mr. Maxwell were sent from every county, they would form a vast fund of suggestive thought. Too often our friends merely send a newspaper clipping, or worse still, a newspaper in which the Convention proceedings are reported. Frequently the report may be overlooked in the rapid examination necessarily made of the thousands of papers received at this office, and even when the clipping is received, it is impossible for one not present at the meeting to give a fair report of the proceedings.

We wish every county to have fair play and due prominence given to its educational work in the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, and we earnestly request the Inspectors to send us abstracts of the papers and discussions of their Conventions. Secretaries will be able to make these extracts without much trouble, and in making them they will confer a benefit on the whole teaching community.

GOOD READING.

The necessity for literary culture is widely felt. There is scarcely a village or school section in Canada in which there are not a few people who have a longing for the establishment of a Mutual Improvement Society of some sort in their neighborhood during the winter months. This desire shows itself in the Literary Societies, Debating Clubs, and Young People's Associations started, at one time or another, in connection with every church, school-house, and temperance society throughout the land.

Unfortunately, however, these societies usually languish and die after a short existence. The moving spirit in connection with them is often the minister or the teacher, and when he removes from the district, the society is given up. Each association stands alone, receiving neither inspiration nor direction from any other; each works on its own line, without the advantage of the experience of others, and so the work done is not continuous or systematic.