

to perfect our educational methods. But it is an excellent reason for making it the first and chief aim to secure the very best talent and culture in the men and women who—not the methods or machinery—have to do the real work of education.

Another point worthy of note is the reaction against the examination crazes, and the tendency to fly to the other extreme. One speaker deprecated the loss of time "now utterly wasted in looking over examination papers" and another, a superintendent, said: "No examination discloses the attainments and capabilities of the pupils, and what wise man can make one that will?" No one will perfectly, perhaps, but certainly no other method will make that disclosure with a certainty equal to that of a good examination paper. Even the best teachers will often be surprised as the result of examination to find how little some of those who seemed bright pupils, really understood of what they had studied and talked about. We have strongly declared ourselves against the examination *furor*, which has at times made the life of both teacher and pupil a mind-destroying drudgery. But, on the other hand, we are convinced that the written examination cannot be dispensed with without great loss. Judiciously used it is by far the best method we have found both for testing acquirements and for cultivating that exactness of thought and expression which the pen is the best agent in compelling.

PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.

On behalf of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY we have to announce that the JOURNAL will from this date be published as a Fortnightly instead of a Weekly, as during the past year, and that the price of subscription will be at once reduced to one dollar a year.

Before giving the reasons for making this important change we desire to tender our sincere and hearty thanks to all patrons of the JOURNAL for the very liberal patronage and encouragement we have received from all parts of the Dominion during the past year. The success of the JOURNAL as a weekly has surpassed our expectations. The fact that it has had nearly one thousand subscribers in the Maritime Provinces alone, shows that it is in reality what it has always aimed to be, a paper for the Dominion. The experiment of a weekly issue was made, not without some misgivings, and had the balance at the end of the year appeared on the wrong side of the ledger the publishers would not have been surprised. Thanks to the liberality and appreciation of subscribers and advertisers, this was not the case. The year was, on the whole, as already announced, a prosperous one.

It is due to our numerous readers that the reasons for the change about to be made should be briefly stated. We believe they will commend themselves to the judgment of all.

In the first place we are convinced that it is by no means essential to the success and usefulness of a thoroughly practical Teachers' paper, such as we have always striven to make the SCHOOL JOURNAL, that it should be issued weekly. We believe the larger number of our most intelligent patrons will prefer a fortnightly issue. We mean the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL to be not only taken but *read* by the teachers of all Canada. But sixteen or twenty pages per week of practical

school matter is more than the average teacher can find time to read, without neglecting other equally important subjects. Of this we have been assured again and again by those whose opinions have weight. The progressive teacher must have time for reading the general newspapers and magazines, which carry him over a much wider field than can be covered by any educational journal. He must, too, reserve a large portion of his leisure for current literature and for the older English classics, to which, happily, the attention of teachers and pupils is now being so urgently directed. In Ontario especially these considerations have double weight, now that an extensive course of general and professional reading has been marked out for teachers by the Department. In view of all these facts we are well assured that a first-class fortnightly paper will meet the wants of the great majority of our patrons better than a weekly.

Another paramount object is to reduce the cost of the JOURNAL to subscribers. Two dollars a year is a low price for a sixteen-page weekly paper, but with the numerous demands from every quarter upon the too small income of teachers, it is more than they generally care to pay. Many, we know, have continued their subscriptions to the JOURNAL because they valued it too highly to part with it under any circumstances, who yet felt that the cost was more than they could well afford. We want to put the SCHOOL JOURNAL within reach of every teacher in the Dominion, and of many students and others who are not teachers. In order to this two things are necessary. The paper must be right in kind and right in price. That the SCHOOL JOURNAL is right in kind as the teacher's friend and helper and the only thoroughly practical teacher's paper in Canada, is already well established, the teachers themselves being judges. The reduction in price to a dollar a year is now made to supply the other requisite, and put the paper at once into the hands of ten thousand Canadian teachers.

The thoroughly practical character of the JOURNAL will be maintained, improved upon, if possible. The one aim will be to supply just what is needed to aid the earnest teacher in the daily duties of the school-room. Information, counsel, experience, practical methods, hints on government, &c., will be carefully gleaned from every quarter. Above all the conductors of the paper appeal to the members of the profession to help each other by free interchange of ideas, methods and experiences. Suitable contributions from practical teachers everywhere will always be welcome to the columns of the JOURNAL.

To sum up in a word. The aim of the publishers in making the change is first to make the JOURNAL still better adapted to the wants of all Canadian teachers and second to put it within reach of all.

As a matter of course subscribers who have paid in advance for the JOURNAL as a weekly will have the unexpired time of their subscriptions doubled. Should any prefer it their money will be refunded on application.

The JOURNAL will henceforth be issued on the 1st and 15th of each month.

All communications of whatever kind should be addressed as heretofore to Business Manager of School Journal Publishing Co., 423 Yonge St., Toronto.