

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

IT will be seen by the list of prescribed books in the present number of the Journal, that the Council of Public Instruction, has sanctioned for the use of the Public Schools, a new English Grammar, by J. A. McCabe, Esquire, of the Normal School. From a careful perusal of this work, we can unhesitatingly recommend it, as far superior to any elementary work on English Grammar we have ever seen. Within a small compass, the author has treated the essentials of English Grammar, with a thoroughness, and at the same time a conciseness which go to prove a peculiar merit in the work.

The definitions and explanations are excellent. Parsing in tabulated form is introduced at an early stage, and continued throughout, well selected exercises being given at each stage. We notice that in many places the author has left the beaten track, and we think has left it in every instance with decided success. We have not time to particularize, but may say, that the Analysis, Prosody, and Figures of Speech, as well as the Grammar proper, are well suited to give clear and decided ideas on this very important branch of education.

It is the design of the author to make a considerable enlargement in a subsequent edition, when no doubt, the few inaccuracies, as generally made in printing a first edition, will be corrected. Altogether we are much pleased with the book and wish to see it in all our public schools as soon as possible. It is sold by all the book-sellers in the Province.

## THE ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETINGS.

THE last Monday in September is the day on which our School Law requires the annual School meetings to be held in all the School Sections throughout the Province. To the friends of Education, and for our Public Schools, the day above named is one of much interest, as the deliberations and decisions of those School meetings must assuredly be for good or harm.

The following is the usual order of business in these meetings:—1st, to elect a Chairman; 2nd, to elect a Secretary; 3rd, to elect new Trustees, or a new Trustee, as the case may require; 4th, to receive the report of the Trustees; 5th, to determine, by vote of a majority of rate payers present, the amount of money to be raised by the section for the ensuing year.

We shall make a few remarks on some of the points in the above outline. After the organization of the meeting, the Chairman being in his place, the meeting will proceed to the election of a Secretary. In this duty the electors should exercise mature judgment and sound discretion, and inasmuch as an accurate record of the business of the meeting is to be handed to the Inspectors for the County, and may become the basis of future action, the record of the meeting should, as far as possible, be correct and intelligible, that, when consulted, the will of the meeting may be well understood. With a view, therefore, to this desirable accuracy, the meeting should elect for Secretary, if one such is eligible, a person of honest, business-like habits, able to make a correct minute of the business of the meeting, and to record its decisions.

The presenting of the report of the Trustees for the year now expiring will be the next business in order; and it is presumable that this report has been prepared with careful attention to all the requirements of the sections, and that it places before the rate payers a detailed account of the expenses of the past year, so that every man may understand how School matters stand. Not infrequently confusion, almost without remedy, results from the negligent and inaccurate manner in which Trustees prepare

and present, in their report, the business of the Section. Rate-Payers are not generally satisfied with reports of business which they do not understand, doubts insinuate themselves, and the suspicious mind is prepared to believe that confused statements were purposely confused, to conceal fraud. The report should therefore, be as distinct and definite as possible, going into all necessary details, and making an honest and open exposure of the whole interest of the School. Attention to this, we are persuaded, will prevent a large amount of needless debate, loss of time, and sectional partyism. Trustees should feel it a duty, owed to the section, to look well to the suggestions now made and the intelligent rate payers should, as an imperative duty insist in having from retiring Trustees, an explicit statement of the whole income and expenditure of the year. In this way the Section will understand its position, and have a fair opportunity for making provision for future success.

The choice of Trustees, or of one Trustee, will probably be the next business in the School meeting. Among rate payers the question is frequently heard, who shall be Trustees? and the enquiry is one of no little value to the School interest.

Be assured that enemies, or indifferent men will not—cannot exercise a fostering care for the interest they assume to encourage and protect. If there is an intelligent, clear headed, and a hearty friend to education in the Section, we urge you by all means, to draw forth all possible influence and give all your strength to have such an one elected Trustee. The effort you make to accomplish your purpose, the object being secured, is well made and will be amply repaid. In placing the School interest in such hands, you express your estimate of honest intelligence, and have, in the character of the Trustee you elect, a guarantee for deserved success. The influence of such Trustees will appear in all School matters, and the wisdom of the choice will be profitable to all. The necessity of having for Trustees the best and most intelligent friends of our School System ought to impress itself deeply on the minds of the people, for as yet a few enemies of our School System lurk in the ranks of friends, ready at any time, to lay unhallowed hands upon this essential appendage to the progress and elevation of our country. And what a field of usefulness is presented to Trustees interested in the work to which they are appointed? Whether we regard it in its progress or contemplate the future labors, we fail not, to perceive every motive proper to excite a generous mind to honorable activity. As Trustees they are carrying forward and giving increased momentum to agencies which in their results can never cease, and which from their very nature will gather increased force, and have a widened range for good, to be enjoyed in other years and by coming generations.

Another important duty devolving upon the annual meeting is the voting of a sum of money for the ensuing year. When this question is up, the meeting should labor to have a distinct and intelligible prospective view of the year for which provisions are now to be made. Several considerations must be presented, and honestly deliberated upon, if the incoming year is to be one of progress? There is the School House, is it sufficiently ample for the Section? Is it warm? Is it ventilated? Are its surroundings such as they ought to be? It is hard for the Trustees to carry on a School in an insufficient House, and for children to love their school and be interested in its exercises unless they are warm and otherwise comfortable. The meeting should look to this part of the Trustees report, for it is to be expected that the retiring Trustees will report upon the state of the premises, and if improvements are required, recommend a generous appropriation of money. Are there books in the school? We mean books which are the property of the Section: upon this also the Trustees should report, for in a strict construction of the School