

# The Canada School Journal.

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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.

### TEACHERS' LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Rev. John Rodgers, Vice-chairman of the London School Board, has recently inaugurated a movement in England, which is certain to produce important educational results. At his invitation a conference on questions of Public Elementary Education was held on the 2nd July, at the Vicarage of St. Thomas Charterhouse, London. The programme of subjects for consideration at the preliminary and at subsequent meetings included The Cost of Education; Compulsory Education up to the age of 14; the Inadvisability of Half-time; Compulsory Evening Education for Boys over the age of 16, for Technical Education, Languages, Science, &c.; the Code; Individual and Class Examination; the Fourth Schedule; Graded Schools; the Pupil Teacher System, ought it to be retained, and if so what Modifications are necessary? the Necessity for Centre Teaching; Training Colleges, their denominational character, a Conscience Clause, and is the number of Training Colleges adequate? Non-resident Training Colleges.

Head masters and members of School Boards were invited, and some members of Parliament were present. The object of the Conference was to discuss living educational questions with a view to securing practical legislation in regard to them. The meetings are to be held twice a year; before the Education Department prepares its annual code, and in the spring after the Educational Bill has been submitted to Parliament. Would it not be well for the Ontario Teachers' Association to appoint a Committee on Legislation? If such a committee were formed, representing fairly the various sections of the profession and the Province, no government could afford to treat its recommendations lightly. If the Grangers are to give their views on the teacher's duties, it is surely time for those who know most about the educational affairs of the country to make their opinions known. It is unfortunately true, that teachers have too often been treated somewhat cavalierly by our legislators,

but this is the result of want of organization, and a diffidence in expressing their views in a decided manner. If the Association becomes representative, the teachers of the Province could easily be united into one body through the local Associations, and they could then compel a respectful deference to their views.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

We are glad to note that England and France are taking a more decided interest in physical training. In this they are merely following in the wake of Germany, Sweden and Denmark. The London School Board has recently re-engaged Miss Lofving, a Swedish lady, as superintendent of physical education in girls' schools.

At the beginning of this year a law was passed making gymnastics an obligatory subject of instruction in all French boys' schools. A minute of M. Jules Ferry has been recently published, laying down directions for the carrying out of the law. "Gymnastics," says the Minister of Public Instruction, "are an indispensable complement of scholastic instruction. In secondary schools, and primary normal schools, they already form part of the regular course; but in village schools, owing to the difficulty of finding instructors, they are only partially adopted. In futuro the schoolmasters themselves will be held responsible, and must qualify themselves for teaching gymnastics, either by the study of the Government manual, or by attending classes to be held during the holidays, in the capital of the Department. The Government will supply apparatus at 20 per cent. below cost price; but it is pointed out that free gymnastics, perhaps the best course for young children, do not require apparatus. Four lessons of half-an-hour are to be given each week; in the open air if the weather is fine—in a covered court or building, provided by the Mayor, if wet. The lessons are never to be given directly after a meal."

The *London Journal of Education* recommends the systematic introduction of gymnastics into the Public Schools of England as a subject for the consideration of Mr. Mundella.

### REMEDY FOR FORMALISM IN STATE EDUCATION.

*Apropos* to the meeting of the Provincial Teachers' Association, it may be well to consider one or two questions in regard to the working of a State system of education, which thoughtful men among ourselves, as well as in England, have frequently pondered and discussed.

All admit the necessity of some organization for the promotion of education. Four forms of this organization are possible, 1st. a purely voluntary, as in the case of the religious denominations; 2nd. an official or State system, as in the case