

first and second class teachers commence on the ninth of the same month. The examination for third class teachers begins on the sixteenth. On the subjects common to the two programmes the papers for second class and intermediate will be the same, but a higher percentage of marks will be required for the former than for the latter. An option will be allowed between the English Literature paper for the intermediate and the Botany and Physiology paper for second class.

The Minister of Education has decided, in connection with a case of suspension appealed to him, that the children of Roman Catholic parents have a right to remain in the School-room during the opening and closing religious services though they refuse to conform to the rule respecting posture. In other words, they may remain seated when the rest of the pupils are called upon to stand during the time for devotional exercises.

In order to put a stop to the irritation arising from the difficulty of ascertaining who are Public School supporters and who are supporters of Separate Schools, the new School Act makes it the duty of each Municipal Council to cause the Assessor and Collector to distinguish them by different columns on their rolls. In this way Municipal Councils will hereafter have to collect Separate as well as Public School taxes, provided the Separate School trustees elect to avail themselves of the new law rather than of the provisions of the Separate School Act, and notify the Clerk of the municipality to that effect.

The Minister of Education, while pressing upon trustees the necessity of enforcing the compulsory clauses of the School Act, adds that "More may be done by personal visits of trustees, by argument and persuasion, than by actual resort to legal proceedings, but these are imperative under the Act when a milder course proves useless." In cases of continued neglect on the part of parents the trustees should require no urging to set the law in motion for the sake of the public as well as of the children.

It is not an uncommon practice for school boards to impose a small weekly or monthly fee on pupils to pay for the use of books and stationery supplied by the trustees. A fee of ten cents per month having been imposed for this purpose in Brantford, one ratepayer objected and appealed to the Minister of Education, who has decided that school boards have by law the power to impose such a fee; that when it is imposed each pupil must pay it whether he uses the books thus provided or not; that the fee can be collected in advance; and that the trustees have a legal right to exclude from school until the fees is paid any pupil refusing to pay it.

The following provisions of the law are very often neglected. They are important and should be enforced. Non-compliance with them is punishable, with fine: A copy of the minutes of every meeting (annual or special) signed by the Secretary and chairman must be sent to the Inspector of Schools. Clerks of Townships are also required to inform the Inspector of all business done by their respective councils, which has any reference to School Sections or Schools. They are in addition required to prepare a map of their respective Townships, showing the boundaries of all the School Sections. This must be posted up in the office of the Clerk, and a copy of it sent to the County Council.—*Journal of Education.*

Alma College, St. Thomas, has entered on a new and, its friends hope, successful career. Although incorporated under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it is intended to be thrown open to young ladies of all denominations who desire a liberal training. If the *Home Journal* speaks by the card, the founders of the institution can hardly be accused of aiming too low. We are told that "the first and immediate object of Alma College will be to provide for the young ladies who may become students within its walls as liberal an education as University College, Toronto, now provides for the young men of the Dominion. This first object—this feature of primary importance—once made a thorough success, the Senate or Board of Management can take up the question of adding thereto a Boys' College." It will probably be a long time before this rose-coloured picture becomes an accomplished fact, but none the less on that account do we commend the people of St. Thomas and the Conference of the M. E. Church for their enterprise and praiseworthy ambition. There are few places in the Province as well adapted for becoming the seat of a successful college as the rising town of St. Thomas.

From the annual report of Mr. Platt, P. S. inspector, to the County Council of Prince Edward, we learn that the total expenditure for school purposes during last year was \$34,830. Of this sum \$24,608 went in payment of teachers' salaries, the average

salary for male teachers being \$375, and for females \$245. The total number of teachers employed was 85, and amongst these there were 28 changes during the year. In some localities nearly all the schools changed teachers, and only 21 of the teachers, less than one fourth, had held the same situations for more than one year. The schools were kept open a fair average period and the attendance, though by no means good, was not quite so bad as it has been in many other counties. The average was 45 per cent. of the aggregate, a slight improvement on 1875. The inspector complains in strong terms of irregularity in the attendance, which he affirms to be the greatest evil against which schools have to contend, and attributes it to the indifference of parents, lack of enthusiasm and skill on the part of the teacher, and neglect of duty on the part of trustees, who in many instances neither look after the school premises nor do anything in the way of enforcing the compulsory clauses of the School Act. In connection with this latter charge it is worthy of note that 239 children between 7 and 12 attended school less than four months. Two school houses were burnt during the year, three erected and seven repaired. Eleven sites were enlarged, and many others improved. Only 16 libraries are reported but nearly all the schools are supplied with maps, globes and clocks.

If all schoolboys were animated with the spirit of the boy who penned the following letter to the *London Free Press* there would be little reason to complain of the want of shade trees around school grounds:—

(To Mr. Free Press.)

DEAR SIR,—I am a little boy who now goes to Talbot-street School, but I hope soon to be raised to the Union School; and, as I see by the papers, different suggestions to beautify the grounds by planting trees on the outside, and where they may be required on that beautiful site, but there seems to be a delay which no person can properly explain. Almost every little boy and girl that goes to school has a money-box to save what little presents they may get. If only one-third of the scholars who go, not only to the Union but to the Ward Schools, would purchase a single tree, and present them to the Trustees or Board of Works, I think they would have them planted. I am sure, if such a plan would be adopted, there would not only be sufficient for the school grounds, but enough to plant all necessary for Victoria Park. I feel satisfied any trees presented to the Park Committee they would gladly have them placed in proper position. And to show how earnest I am in the matter, if the Trustees will accept from me and my little sister, purchased from my money-box, four horse chestnut, or other suitable trees, to be planted on the north, south, east and west corners, I shall let them have them in an hour's notice. If each boy and girl would look after his own tree, or that presented, how pleasant it would feel in a few short years to observe how much good the little he had done to embellish what now almost is only in name the Forest City.

Respectfully yours,

ALBERT SMITH.

London, April 24, 1877.

445 Richmond-st.

The *Hamilton Times* gives the following account of the recent inspection of the Collegiate Institute in that city. The inspection was by Dr. McLellan and occupied nearly three days:—"He gave most attention to the higher classes in classics, mathematics, and modern language; he also spent some time with a class practicing chemistry. In his remarks at the conclusion of the examination, he characterized the work done, the organization and the general arrangements of the school as very satisfactory. The present course of study presented for high schools and collegiate institutes, with the regulations affecting the entrance and intermediate examinations, seemed to press hard on some schools, and many of them in consequence of this are now asking for but one intermediate examination in the year; but he observed no unusual strain here, and he was sure that this school would still keep the foremost place at these examinations. He then referred in a very humorous way to the kind of instruction formerly given in arithmetic in the Canadian schools, and compared it with the intelligent manner in which teachers now presented the subject to their pupils. He considered the mathematics of the school exceptionally good; he was also pleased to see the superior way in which classics were taught, and the French prose composition he considered very well done. From the practical way in which the sciences were taught he was sure this department would not be neglected. A very noticeable feature of the Institute, he observed, was the spirit of earnestness which seemed to pervade the whole school, and this element entered as a very important factor, into the successful