

The Canada School Journal.

AND WEEKLY REVIEW.

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Table of Contents.

	PAGE.
EDITORIAL:—	
The World.....	49
The School.....	50
The Week's News.....	52
SPECIAL ARTICLES:—	
College Confederation, by R. W. Shannon, M.A.....	53
College Confederation, by F. R. Battie, M.A.....	54
EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.....	54
PRACTICAL DEPARTMENT.....	55
EDUCATIONAL NOTES AND NEWS.....	56
PERSONAL.....	57
CORRESPONDENCE.....	57
MISCELLANEOUS.....	58
QUESTION DRAWER.....	59
ALL SORTS.....	60
LITERARY REVIEW.....	60

The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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and a staff of competent Provincial editors.

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—TERMS—

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The World.

From the report of the Minister of Justice laid on the table of the Senate the other day, it appears that there has been during the past year a very gratifying decrease in the number of convicts. In all the penitentiaries of the Dominion there were on the 30th of June last, 1,049 convicts, being a falling off of 70 within the year. Of the whole number but 34 were females.

Some of the papers are advocating a reduction of the rate of postage on letters to two cents, to correspond with that on the other side of the line. No doubt the increase in the number of letters mailed would nearly or quite make good the deficiency in revenue. It is to be hoped the Post Office Department will keep itself abreast of the times by giving us the reduction.

The prohibitionists are going on conquering and to conquer. The Scott Act was carried on the 29th inst., in the county of Carleton by a majority of between 800 and 1000. This is the fifth county that has adopted it within the first month of the

new year. If only these victories are followed up to their legitimate issues and the fact clearly demonstrated that prohibition does prohibit and that a great increase of sobriety, industry, frugality and morality, with a corresponding decrease of poverty, misery and crime, are its undoubted fruits, the day will not be distant when Canada shall from ocean to ocean have banned and vetoed the liquor traffic.

The Montreal carnival seems to be a greater success this winter than ever. The newspapers abound with glowing descriptions—if the word glowing can properly be applied to things so frigid as ice palaces and snow slides,—of one event after another. The snow-shoe tramp, the moonlight storming of the glittering castle, the great tandem excursion, the tobogganning, all seem to have come off in their turns without slip or mishap. The influx of visitors has been unprecedented. The Montreal Carnival seems to be taking its place amongst the institutions of the Continent, and pleasure-seekers in Canada and the United States are beginning to look forward to it as eagerly as to the season at the Capitals, or the excursion to the seaside.

We have received the January number of the *Educational Record*, of the Province of Quebec. It is a magazine of some thirty pages, filled with well written and selected articles and notes on educational topics. The editor is, we believe, Rev. Mr. Rexford, M.A., Secretary of the Education Department. Mr. Rexford formerly did excellent service as a High School Master in Montreal, and since his promotion to the responsible post he now occupies, has done much to increase the efficiency of the school system in the sister Province. His thorough scholarship, and untiring energy and industry, are making themselves felt in every department, and winning the esteem and confidence of all concerned. We congratulate the educational authorities of Quebec on having got the right man in the right place.

Since the date of our last issue the Legislature of Ontario and the Parliament of the Dominion have both commenced their sessions. There is nothing very important or startling in the programme of either. We notice, however, each Government promises to introduce a bill to simplify the process of land transfer within its jurisdiction—that is to say, in Ontario and the Northwest Territory, respectively. There can be no doubt that these movements are in the right direction. What ever tends to facilitate the transfer of land and to free transactions in it from the incongruous and absurd formalities with which they are now fettered, will be welcomed by thousands. Especially in the Northwest, where the people are commencing with a clean slate, why should not the buying and selling of land be made as simple and straightforward as the barter of any other kind of property? The lawyers may suffer, but they may be pretty safely trusted to look after their own interests.