

The Canada School Journal

IS PUBLISHED

THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH,

—AT—

11 WELLINGTON ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT., CAN.

Subscription \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

Extract from letter received from Hon. J. W. SIMMONDS, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, New Hampshire.

Some weeks since I received the June No. of your Journal, at my home Franklin, N.H., sent in answer to a request. That was a very valuable and instructive number. I read it with much interest. I ask you to send me the subsequent numbers, and enrol me as a subscriber.

Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.

Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction in Quebec.

Recommended by the Chief Supt. of Education for New Brunswick.

Recommended by the Chief Supt. of Education, British Columbia.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1878.

RETROSPECT.

The past year has been one of marked success in the history of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL. It has rapidly established itself in popularity throughout the Dominion, and has a considerable circulation in the United States. The percentage of teachers who subscribe for the educational paper of their own county in any part of America is unfortunately smaller than it should be. So far as we can learn, it is now as large in Canada as in any of the States of the Union. It is certainly much higher than ever before in Canada. The JOURNAL is, indeed, the only educational periodical that has ever had a Dominion circulation. This it has now succeeded in gaining for itself. It is with unfeigned satisfaction and pride that we announce the receipt of an order from the Chief Superintendent of Nova Scotia for *one thousand copies* for the teachers of his province. This is not a Government order, but comes from the teachers themselves through the Chief Superintendent. We are encouraged to hope that by the close of another year we will be able to state that the teachers of other provinces have followed the noble example set by their brethren of Nova Scotia. May the tidal wave of subscription lists roll westward.

The publishers are determined to spare neither trouble nor expense to make the JOURNAL in all respects a genuine *teachers' aid*. They aim to make it in the fullest sense practical. Nothing will be allowed a place in its columns which will not be of immediate interest and direct assistance to the teacher in conducting his daily work in school. Arrangements have been made for the publication during the coming year of articles from leading educators in Great Britain and the United States, in addition to those which will be written by our large list of Canadian editors and contributors. All teachers desirous of advancing the best interests of their profession are respectfully requested to use the columns of the JOURNAL to assist in doing so.

In all respects the year has been one of steady progress in

educational matters in Canada. There have been no startling developments, but the reports from all parts show that the interest of the people in the high and public schools was never greater than at present. No clearer proof of this could be given than the fact that, although the times have been hard, there were more splendid school buildings erected during the past year than ever before. Salaries, too, have gone steadily up, notwithstanding the agitations in favor of reduction in many parts of the United States.

In Ontario the County Model School system has thoroughly established itself in popular favor. The schools of the province will be greatly benefited by the training which all teachers obtaining certificates for the first time must receive in these Model Schools. If our system of training teachers was as complete in its higher departments as it is in its lower, it would be unsurpassed by any in the world. We need a higher kind of professional training for our first-class teachers, however, and until they receive it the masters of Model Schools will not be so well qualified for their work as they should be.

The advisability of introducing the Kindergarten into the lower departments of city and town schools has been favorably considered during the year in several parts of the Province of Ontario. It is almost certain that before the close of another year this delightful method will be firmly engrafted on our public school system. Private kindergartens are already in successful operation in the leading cities of the Dominion.

The question, What is the duty of the State in relation to its neglected and pauper children? is beginning to excite considerable interest in Canada. We have not yet such large numbers of them as are found in the large cities of Europe, but the question is an important one, even in this country. It is important from both an economic and a moral standpoint. Do not the neglected children become criminals in maturer years, and do they not cost their country more to restrain and punish them than it would have taken to make good citizens of them if they had been taken in time? Ontario has a comprehensive Industrial School Act, but as yet no School Board has taken advantage of its provisions. The Toronto School Board, however, seem to be moving in the direction of the establishment of an Industrial School, and have already secured a building for that purpose.

The Teachers' Associations throughout the Dominion are becoming a very important part of the educational system of the country. County Associations are established by law, and are assisted by a Government grant. Each Province has an association for the consideration of the general educational questions affecting the whole country. It only remains to put the top stone on the structure of the formation of a Dominion Educational Association. This idea was brought before the last meeting of the Ontario Association by Mr. Hughes, and has since been regarded with favor by several of the leading educators of the Dominion. Its establishment is only a question of time.