

Branch has been particularly useful, and should not, under any consideration, be abolished.

The concessions proposed by the new School Bill to the "Trade" should certainly be satisfactory. The privilege of purchasing at any Book Store, (with certain restrictions as to the character of the work,) does away with anything approaching to monopoly, and no bookseller is debarred from receiving his share of whatever business Trustees may desire to transact with him.

We are not able to pronounce any opinion upon the recriminatory charges bandied between J. M. Adam, Publisher of Toronto, and the Deputy Superintendent of Education. It is a matter that does concern the public, however, and it would be well to have it thoroughly ventilated in the Local Legislature.

The minor, but not unimportant provisions of the Bill may be briefly summarized as follows:—

In large School Sections two school houses may be built.

Trustees must make an annual census of or return of all the children between 7 and 12 years of age, who have not attended any educational institution four months in the year. Complaints against the parents or

guardians of such may be made before a magistrate or they may be charged a Rate Bill of one dollar per month for such time as they neglected to send their children to school.

Teachers may choose to superannuate at sixty, whether incapacitated by infirmity or not.

Teachers are to be entitled to four weeks' salaries for sickness, on proof by medical certificate.

Teachers are to keep general and class Registers.

Inspectors hereafter appointed are not to hold any other office which may interfere with the full discharge of their duties.

The Council of Public Instruction may issue Second as well as First Class Provincial Certificates.

Examinations of Teachers to be held annually only.

We have thus endeavored to lay before our readers as fully as space would permit the general features of the proposed School Act. We consider it on the whole satisfactory, whatever objection may exist to any of its provisions on mere matters of detail, and we trust it will pass the Legislature without any mutilation that would vitiate its general tenor.

REQUIREMENTS OF OUR RURAL SCHOOLS.—PRIZE ESSAY.

BY J. FRITH JEFFERS, SECOND MASTER, PICTON HIGH SCHOOL.

We conceive this subject as relating to our "Rural" Public Schools, as we find them in the country districts and villages of our Canada, exclusive of those of the general class of Public Schools, which exist in our cities and towns. Taking this view of them, we regard these schools as the source from which the children of Canadian yeomen and Canadian artizans are to derive that instruction, and acquire

that information, which will enable them at the proper time to take up the reins dropped by their fathers, and guide the chariot of their country's progress to the goal of future greatness and stability. Looking among the nations, and comparing one with the other, what do we find to be the chief cause of the greatness of the one, or the abasement of the other? Is it to be found in extent of territory, in the possession or lack of