

Ann and Ste. Therese. Agricultural Schools can only be maintained by means of bursaries—even the celebrated institution at Crignon is no exception to the rule, its attendance, besides strangers coming from all parts of Europe and America, consisting almost exclusively of its bursars.

The Board of Agriculture is now engaged in drawing up programmes for the examination of candidates for Professorships of Agriculture, and the Executive has adopted a rule by which Agricultural Schools whose professors do not hold certificates shall be excluded from any participation in the benefit of a public grant.

We would particularly call the attention of school authorities and teachers to the following details, which we translate from the *Gazette des Campagnes*, adding, however, that the number of scholarships has since been increased to twenty, corresponding to the exact number of judicial districts:

"Since the opening of the Agricultural Schools all who entered them had been left to their own resources. Having overcome the opposition of relatives and friends, a serious obstacle still presented itself in the shape of the expense attending a sojourn at the School. The Board of Agriculture has now in a great measure removed this obstacle.

"At its meeting held on the 16th December, at Montreal, the sum of \$950 was appropriated to the founding of nineteen bursaries of \$50 each (one for each judicial district) in favor of young men desirous of obtaining an agricultural training with a view to fitting themselves for the duties of practical agriculturists. Ten of these bursaries were allotted to the school at Ste. Anne and nine to that of Ste. Therese. The candidates to choose the school they shall enter.

"The selection of the candidates is left to the Presidents of the local District Societies of Agriculture, and if on the 15th May next, any appointment remain still unreported, the Board of Agriculture shall itself fill the vacancy before the 1st of July.

"Thus, there is no time to be lost by intending candidates, who ought to apply to the Presidents of the Agricultural Societies of their respective counties, stating their ages, previous instruction, and especially what means they possess of applying the knowledge they shall obtain at the School to a practical purpose, either by cultivating on their own account or by the assurance of the use of a well stocked farm, as, unless put into effect without delay, much of the advantage of a scientific training would be lost.

"The Board of Agriculture has not yet determined what conditions candidates shall be called upon to fulfil; and probably it has been deemed sufficient for the present to require nothing beyond a compliance with the usual conditions as formulated by each school.

"The School at St. Ann requires that a candidate shall possess a correct and grammatical acquaintance with the French language, the first principles of arithmetic, simple and compound fractions, and proportion. The age on admission is fixed at not less than sixteen years; but if the candidate is otherwise eligible, this condition is not always strictly enforced.

"We believe the Board is not opposed to the division of a scholarship between two candidates. The bursaries are only held during good conduct; and the Board will no doubt make a formal rule to this effect.

"Since each of the judicial districts has a bursary at its disposal there is no parish so small and isolated, nor village so poor and far removed from the great centres, as to be without a chance of sending a representative to one of those schools. The Board of Agriculture, itself representing the agricultural interests of the whole of Lower Canada, could not possibly have adopted a more equitable measure, since it offers an equal chance to the entire population, without distinction of origin or as to locality."

The Educational Almanac.

In presenting our readers with the accompanying sheet Almanac for the new year, we would, according to the long established custom, give expression to the hearty wishes we entertain for their future welfare and prosperity. The Almanac has been considerably enlarged, and much information, having reference to the Boards of Examiners, Normal Schools, etc., has been added. The Table of contents for 1863 also accompanies the present number. The Almanac will be found very useful to persons charged with the execution of the School Acts, or having a direct interest in the working of the educational system. A glance in time at the matter it contains may prove the means of avoiding trouble and annoyance and prevent the incurring of much useless expense.

The Old and the New Year--1863-1864.

All the difficulties, quarrels and wars inherited from its predecessor, together with many new elements of discord, seem to have been handed over as a frightful legacy by the old year to the new. The great contest between the Northern and Southern States of America, which it was boasted at the outset, would not last more than six months, does not, although it has been raging for almost three years, appear to be much nearer its termination. England has wars on hand in China, Japan, India, New Zealand—everywhere almost; Italy is on the eve of a new outbreak; Poland is agonizing in an ocean of the noblest blood of Europe, while Denmark and the German powers are almost irretrievably committed to a most sanguinary contest, the consequence of which may be a general war.

The old year has also witnessed the death of a great many illustrious men, as may be seen by the numerous necrological notices contained in our preceding and the present issues. England seems to have furnished more than her usual share to the list. Lord Lansdowne, Lord Clyde, Sir James Outram, Lord Normanby, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Elgin, Archbishop Wateley, Mrs. Trollope, Thackeray, and a great many other distinguished persons in Great Britain have departed with the year 1863.

The deepest sensation was created in Canada by the announcement of the death of Lord Elgin, which happened so soon after that of his brother, General Bruce. Lord