

tinued. Very many of these are ladies about to enter matrimony. Their perspective bliss causes them to forget the small business matter of writing a postal card to the publisher, asking to have the paper discontinued, thus causing loss to him and annoyance to them in the shape of future dunning letters. Other change their place of residence and forget to notify us. The paper is returned with "left the place" or "refused" marked upon it. The small matter of sending a postal card asking us to change the address or discontinue, would be but a slight trouble, and would be much pleasanter and more satisfactory to us. We do not wish to force the REVIEW upon any one. We are always sorry to lose a subscriber. But we always feel respect for one who discontinues in a business-like way.

A few weeks ago we notified by postal card the few of our subscribers who have allowed themselves to get two or more years in arrears. Some of the replies were very satisfactory, others not so. Of the latter the following is a sample, after the subscriber had been receiving the paper for about three years:

EDITOR OF REVIEW:

Gentleman,— please stop sending the REVIEW. I signed for one year and one year only. I thought you would stop sending at the closing of the first year. But when you didn't, I will take the liberty of telling you to stop sending it.

Yours sincerely,

This is another letter, which restored our faith in human nature:

EDITOR REVIEW:

Dear Sir,—Your card received, and am sorry you were compelled to so notify me. I have in the past received notice of my indebtedness, and simply through neglect I did not send the money. However, I will do so now. Enclosed you will find a P. O. order for five dollars which will pay all back subscriptions and entitle me to the REVIEW for another year. It would seem by my carelessness in not remitting that the REVIEW was not appreciated by me, but such is not the case. Many times I turn to its pages for help and information, and must ask you to accept an apology for my negligence. Wishing the REVIEW success.

I am yours,

Very truly,

Our readers will pardon us for referring at such length to these business matters. We feel that what we have complained of is largely due to want of thought on the part of those referred to. With this explanation, there need be no misunderstanding between the REVIEW and its subscribers, the relations between whom have been so pleasant in the past, and which, we hope, may become more and more pleasant in the future.

N. B. PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE.

Another session of the Institute is about to be held. Complaint has been made by some teachers of the monotony of the proceedings. This is not true more of teachers' associations than of similar ones held by other bodies. The routine work of necessity varies little each year. Great bodies move slowly, and it takes more than one year to complete most measures.

It is probable that changes in the course of instruction will be considered this year by the Institute for the last time—for a few years at least. The changes in the course depend largely upon changes in text-books. Some changes have been made in texts and many more have been proposed by the text-book committee, but the Board of Education has given no inkling as to its intentions, and how far it proposes to go in the direction advocated by the committee. There is one very important element in the matter, which does not usually weigh much with the average teachers' committee, but which is always present in the considerations of the Board—it is the sentiments of the ratepayer and voter. His influence is most potent, and as he pays all the bills he cannot be entirely disregarded by any. The average ratepayer may be persuaded, but the process is slow; driven he will not be—that trait politicians know well.

Haste must be made slowly in all changes which increase the burdens upon the tax payers, and it would be well for the institute to take cognizance of this. Some changes have already been made and probably more are necessary, but they must be made so as to arouse the least opposition and very gradually.

It is an impossibility to frame a course that will not incur criticism. The present course, while it has not been an exception in that respect, has been a fairly good one; but changes in texts and varying conditions in education renders it necessary that any course should be altered from time to time. That time has arrived for our present course of instruction and there should not be further delay.

CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS.

In the March number of the REVIEW we reviewed briefly the report of the Committee of Ten of the National Education Association. We propose now to cull a few thoughts from the reports of the conferences, on which the general report was founded, beginning with the report of the conference on mathematics.

It is recommended that "the course in arithmetic be at the same time enriched and abridged." It is to be abridged by the omission of all subjects involv-