

ONTARIO ABROAD.

While paid scribes are misrepresenting Gage's Canadian Readers at home the books are meeting with kindly reception abroad as the following paragraph from the *Toronto Mail* of August 25th will show:—

It is a matter of some public interest here to learn that Ontario educational influence is felt in other countries. Messrs. W. J. Gage & Co., of this city, have just received a large order for their new series of Canadian Readers, which are to be introduced into the schools of Bermuda. The same firm were a short time ago favoured with a similar order from Bombay.

The *Educational Monthly* in its August number speaks of "one or two of the collegiate institutes whose masters have not had a proper regard for the dignity of their profession or the rights of other institutions." We are glad to see our neighbour's eyes opened at last to the discreditable character of the tactics which it thus euphemistically condemns. They would have been opened sooner had the worst offenders not been interested in the *Monthly* as stockholders and editorial writers. Better late than never; but how is even this incidental censure of the black sheep of the flock by their white brother to be accounted for? Has there been a falling out? Is the house to be henceforth divided against itself? One prominent member at least of the *Monthly* staff and company has good reason to complain, for he is plainly pointed to now, long after he has, acting on the kindly advice of the *SCHOOL JOURNAL*, ceased to offend. But whatever the motive of the *expose* we welcome it as an indication that even the *Monthly* has found the spirit of professional etiquette amongst teachers too strong to be ignored.

We publish this month the new Departmental regulations relating to public and high schools, and also the public school programme. The importance of the changes made is our best justification for giving up to them so much of our space.

Geographical Notes.

THE BOUNDARIES OF ONTARIO.

It is not our purpose in this paper to take any side in the dispute which has been carried on for ten years between the Dominion and Ontario Governments over the precise location of the northern and western boundaries of this Province. That dispute is still unsettled, but even at this stage there are some points of geographical interest connected with it; and as the sources of information with respect to them are not accessible to all teachers, it may prove useful to some to have the essential facts in a compendious and permanent form.

About the location of the boundary between Ontario and Quebec there is no dispute. It coincides with a line commencing on the north shore of the St. Lawrence at Longueuil, a few miles above the mouth of the Ottawa, and running across the peninsula until it strikes the south shore of the latter about the same distance above its junction with the St. Lawrence. The triangle thus cut off includes the two Quebec counties of Soulanges and Vaudrouil. The line then runs up the Ottawa to Lake Temiscaming, and thence due north to James Bay.

It will be convenient at this point to introduce the description of the northern and westerly boundaries as defined in 1878 by the arbitrators chosen to settle the dispute between Ontario and the Dominion, namely, Sir Edward Thornton, Sir Francis Hincks, and the late Chief Justice Harrison. Commencing at the point where the meridian of Lake Temiscaming strikes James' Bay, the northern boundary is made to run along the coast westward to the mouth of the Albany river; thence up that river to its source at the head of Lake St. Joseph; thence by the shortest line to the easterly end of Lac Seul; and thence down that lake and the English river to the point where the latter is intersected by a line drawn due north from the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods, which last named line forms the western boundary. As no line due north from the angle has ever been surveyed, the award of the arbitrators provides that in the event of such a line falling west of the junction of the English with the Winnipeg river the northern boundary shall follow the latter westward to the point where the meridian of the angle strikes it. The boundary from the angle to Lake Superior is formed by the Lake of the Woods, Rainy River, Rainy Lake and one of its easterly extensions to the height of land, and (east of the latter) by Pigeon river, which empties into Lake Superior.

The contention of the Dominion Government has always been that the northern boundary should be the height of land separating the waters flowing into Lake Superior from those flowing into Hudson's Bay, and that the western boundary should be a line drawn due north from the junction of the Ohio with the Mississippi river. The dispute respecting the western boundary has always turned on the meaning to be attached to the word "northward" in a definition of the southern and western boundaries of the old Province of Quebec, as the latter was constituted by the Imperial Act of 1774. As this definition is in itself a matter of some interest, it is given here in full. It must be borne in mind (1) that the then Province of Quebec was afterwards divided into Upper and Lower Canada; (2) that the Act of 1774 was passed before the colonies which make up the United States became independent, and (3) that the object of the definition was to include in the Province of Quebec all the territory settled chiefly by French-speaking people. The Act provides that "all the territories, islands, and countries in North America belonging to the crown of Great Britain, bounded on the south by a line from the Bay of Chaleurs, along the high lands which divide the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the sea, to a point in forty-five degrees of northern latitude on the eastern bank of the river Connecticut, keeping the same latitude directly west through the Lake Champlain, until in the same latitude it meets the river St. Lawrence, from thence up the eastern bank of the said river to the Lake Ontario, thence through the Lake Ontario and the river commonly called the Niagara, and thence along by the eastern and south-eastern bank of Lake Erie, following the said bank until the same shall be intersected by the northern boundary granted by the charter of the province of Pennsylvania, in case the same shall be so intersected, and from thence along the said northern and western boundaries of the said province until the said western boundary strike the Ohio; but in case the said bank of the said lake shall not be found to be so intersected, then following the said bank until it shall arrive at that point of the said bank which shall be nearest to the north-western angle of the said province of Pennsylvania, and thence by a right line to the said north-western angle of the said province, and thence along the western boundary of the said province until it strikes the river Ohio, and along the bank of the said river westward to the banks of the Mississippi, and northward to the southern boundary of the territory granted to the Merchants Adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay" should be, "during His