

done more in the erection and improvement of its public schools in recent years than any city in the Dominion.

Rev. Dr. O'Connor seconded the motion, which was agreed to by acclamation.

The proceedings, which had been of the most harmonious and happy order, were then brought to a close, and the company separated.

I. Papers Relating to Teachers' Certificates.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATES.

SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.—

JULY, 1876.

The following Report from the Central Committee of Examiners, communicated in a letter from the Rev. Professor Young, the Chairman, has been concurred in by the Chief Superintendent of Education, and is published for the information of all parties concerned.

"In re-arranging the programme for the Normal Schools, so as to adapt it to the new system of annual sessions, the Council of Public Instruction decided, in accordance with a recommendation of the Central Committee, that *English Literature, with its History*, should be substituted for the *History of English Literature*; but, as it is neither possible nor desirable to make a survey of the whole field of English Literature, during a single session, the Normal School course was to consist of a sketch of the literature of particular eras, with critical examination of one or more works in Prose and Verse.

"The Central Committee, though they have received no express instructions on the subject, understand that it is their duty, in their Examination of Candidates for First Class Certificates, to meet the wishes of the Council in this matter, and accordingly they now request that the Chief Superintendent would, for the information of those who intend to compete for First Class Certificates, give public notice of the special eras in the History of English Literature, and of the works in prose and verse, which they intend to make the subjects of examination next July.

"They have selected a part of the works of four eminent authors, each of whom represents a different period in the literary history of England, and they purpose examining candidates for First Class Certificates on these selections, as well as on the lives of the authors, and on the literary history of the period in which each author lived, with the causes to which the several periods owed their peculiar literary character.

"The following are the works selected:—

- I. The Tragedy of Macbeth—*Shakespeare*.
- II. Il Penseroso—*Milton*.
- III. Ten Essays from the Spectator—*Addison*.
 - (i.) No. 18. History of the Italian Opera.
 - (ii.) No. 21. Divinity, Law and Physic, overburdened with Practitioners.
 - (iii.) No. 68. On Friendship.
 - (iv.) No. 69. The Royal Exchange—Benefit of extensive Commerce.
 - (v.) No. 81. Female Party-Spirit discovered by Patches.
 - (vi.) No. 112. A Sunday in the Country—Sir Roger at Church.
 - (vii.) No. 159. The Vision of Mirza.
 - (viii.) No. 239. Various ways of Managing a Debate.
 - (ix.) No. 281. Dissection of a Coquette's Heart.
 - (x.) No. 287. On the Civil Constitution of Great Britain.
- IV. The Lives of Milton and Addison—*Samuel Johnson*.

"While the Committee will attach due weight to a close study of these selections, they will consider it of far greater consequence that candidates should show themselves able to enter into the spirit of the authors read, and to appreciate the beauty of their style. They will prefer a knowledge of important facts and general features to the most minute acquaintance with details, if unaccompanied by an ability to distinguish what is important from what is not. Further, in order to impart a stimulus to the study of English Literature, and to improve the teaching

of English throughout the Province, the Central Committee—acting, as they believe, in harmony with the spirit of the regulations of the Council—purpose increasing the relative number of marks assigned, in the Examination of Candidates for First Class Certificates, in what may be termed the English branches. In future the number of marks allowed for Algebra, Geometry and Natural Philosophy, will be 675 in all; and exactly the same number will be allowed for English Grammar and Etymology, English Literature and Composition."

THIRD-CLASS CERTIFICATES.

In a recent official letter of the Chief Superintendent of Education, he thus refers to the subject of Third Class Certificates:—

I have no objections to extending the period, or rather giving a permit to the third-class teachers to whom you refer, for a period not exceeding twelve months, upon two conditions; first, that you are personally satisfied of their qualifications; secondly, that there are not a sufficient number of first and second-class teachers in the County to supply the Schools.

The express object of limiting third class certificates to three years, was to prompt teachers to improve themselves, so as to obtain second-class or life certificates, and, at the same time to prevent such a multiplication of third-class teachers as to drive out of the profession, or prevent the employment at a fair remuneration, those who have qualified themselves for teaching all the subjects of the public school programme, by obtaining first or second-class life certificates. This great object of advancing the Schools, and the teaching profession is defeated by unduly multiplying (in the way of perpetuating) third-class certificates, the subjects embraced in which do not cover more than half the ground of that public school education for which every man in the community is taxed according to his property, and which he has a right to have provided for his children in the public school.

There is no authority in the law to prolong a third-class certificate; but on the expiration of it, the Inspector may give a permit to the holder of such certificate for one year, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, and at the unanimous request of the Trustees of the School for which the third-class teacher is desired, and to which school his or her certificate should be limited, as well as limited to twelve months, or to the next meeting of his County Board of Examiners.

Certificates which expire in December next, if granted before 24th March, 1874, will be held as valid till the next July Examination, as there will be no opportunity of undergoing examination in December.

Doubts having been expressed as to the power of local boards to exact fifty per cent. of the marks assigned to the subjects of Arithmetic and Grammar from Candidates for Third-Class Certificates, notice is hereby given, that County and City Boards of Examiners may exercise their discretion in that matter.

The Regulation provides that:—"In order to obtain a Third-Class Certificate, the marks must be *not less than one half* of the aggregate value of all the papers for certificates of that rank." Again, in the Qualifications required for Certificates, the minimum is stated. The Boards may, in their discretion, increase the stringency of these examinations, but they should give due notice of their intention to require more than the legal minimum.

EXAMINATION PAPERS.

The sets of Examination Papers used in the Normal School during the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Sessions can be sent from the People's Depository free of postage on receipt of 30 cents each. Those of the 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 31st, 33rd, 36th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th Sessions, at 40 cents each, and those of the 45th, 47th and 48th Sessions, at 50 cents each.

The entire sets of Examination Papers for First, Second and Third Class Teachers for July 1871, July 1873, or December, 1873, neatly stitched, can be sent free of postage on receipt of 60 cents per set. Those used at the County Examinations for Second and Third Class Teachers for July 1871, July 1872, December 1872, July 1873, or December, 1873, can also be sent, free of postage, on receipt of 50 cents per set.