

The semi-annual convention of the Toronto Teachers' Association concluded its session Saturday forenoon. During the convention several important papers were read, particularly upon the effect on young pupils of competitive examinations. A motion was passed requesting the School Board to employ professional oculists to make a careful examination into the condition of the eyes of the pupils in one or more Public Schools, with a view to finding whether shortsightedness exists to a large extent, and of suggesting the best means of preventive.—*Globe*.

At a meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association held in Shaftesbury Hall Nov. 5th over forty ministers were present. A plan for the systematic visitation of the Public Schools by resident ministers was submitted by Dr. Rose, and, with some slight changes, was adopted. Once a month at least the scholars and teachers of the schools may expect a visit from some one or more of the ministers, to give counsel and encouragement in connection with the work of Public School education. We chronicle this new departure with unforgotten pleasure. Ministers everywhere should fall in line and imitate this noble example. A few visits to our schools will cure them of the "Godless" heresy, and will do more real good to the rising generation than cataracts of eloquence on scepticism, scientific intellectualism, Darwinism, Tyndallism, and other threadbare topics. Gentlemen of the white choker, welcome to the Public and High Schools, come on.

Of the 46 candidates from the Chatham High School who wrote at the July examinations, 41, or 89 per cent., passed, viz.:—18 Intermediate, 20 Third Class, and 3 Second B's. Miss Addie Stone, a pupil of this school, matriculated at Toronto in July, with honors in French and German.

Mr. C. W. Chadwick has been appointed principal of the Stratford Model School at \$800.

Thirty-four teachers' conventions in Ontario have recommended Gage's Canadian Readers, while not one has recommended the Nelson-Campbell Royal Readers. Who are better judges of the merits of readers than the teachers?—*Canadian Statesman*.

This department is under obligation to many friends who send copies of local papers containing valuable items of educational news. If such friends would kindly mark the items, or, still better, enclose them in an envelope without sealing, the work of the editor would be greatly facilitated. In this matter we must throw ourselves entirely upon the kindness of our friends, as we have found from expensive experience that it is absolutely impossible to collect the current educational intelligence in any other way. To friends who will regularly send us the news of their several districts, we should be glad to send in return copies of our numerous exchanges. We want a local correspondent in every township in the province.

Clarke Moses, Esq., I.P.S. for Haldimand, was presented with a \$200 gold watch and chain by the teachers of his inspectorate, as a slight acknowledgment of their appreciation of his many merits.

Mr. Marcus Jacques, of New Hamburg, has been appointed principal of the Perth Model School at a salary of \$650.

The *Georgetown Herald* speaks to the point regarding low salaries. It says: "We believe that the Public School teachers of Georgetown receive about the smallest pay for their work of any in the province. The idea of a young lady spending her time and money preparing herself to teach, and then receiving the noble sum of \$225, \$230, or at the highest \$250. Why, an ordinary house servant receives better compensation than that. Now, what is the result of this parsimony? Simply that no good teacher will remain here for any length of time, and as a consequence the schools are suffering from constant change. The small salary granted to our teachers has the effect of driving those best qualified into other employments, to the serious injury of the educational interests of this country." Long live the *Herald*.

At the last intermediate examination of the Strathroy High School, one-quarter of all grades obtained certificates. Out of twelve candidates for second class, six obtained grade A and five obtained grade B.

CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL.—The November number of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL in addition to pungent editorials contains Dr. Oldright's admirable paper on School Hygiene, read at the recent meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association, a number of well-selected articles, and news items interesting to the members of the profession for whom the magazine is especially designed.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

The salary of Miss Pottinger, assistant in the Sarina High School, has been increased to \$550. Mr. Wark, principal of the Model School, has also received an addition of \$100 for extra duties, making his salary \$850.

The Strathroy High School Board is to be congratulated on the acquisition of Mr. Wetherell as head master for their school, at a salary of \$1,400 per annum. For the last two or three years he has occupied the position of head master of the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute, with distinguished success. As successor to Messrs. Hodgson, Dale, Tytler, and even Dr. McLellan in his last position, he has proved himself able to keep up the high standing of that school, and in Strathroy there is every reason to believe he will be even more successful. Mr. Wetherell has made himself a reputation during the last few years by his editions of classical works, such as Virgil and Cato Major. These books are highly valued by the students for whose use they are intended.

Perhaps some of our readers can tell what the London *Advertiser* means when it says: Now that the school holidays are approaching we sincerely hope we shall hear of a present being given to some teacher because of its intrinsic value. This "token of esteem" business does not cost enough to be interesting.—*Stratford Beacon*.

SWEABORG PUBLIC SCHOOL.—With pleasure we have been informed that the trustees of this school have voluntarily and unsolicited added a sum of fifty dollars to the salary of Mr. Theophilus Joseph Parr, who has been in charge of the school during the past year, thus furnishing the snug little sum of \$525 per annum for duties well and faithfully done. The trustees have, we think, acted wisely in so doing, and have abundantly testified to their own intelligence in so quickly discerning the "pure gold" in the character and capabilities of their young teacher. Mr. Parr is an excellent scholar, and a matriculant of the Toronto University, also an accomplished elocutionist. We wish him still further success, and trust that other honors await him in this as well as in the higher office to which he aspires.—*Sentinel Review*.

The following are the demands of the *Catholic Record* in regard to the Separate Schools:—"1. The portfolio of education kept in the hands of a minister, who should be assisted by two deputy ministers, one of them a Catholic. 2. A Council of Public Instruction, and this divided into two sections, 'one Catholic, and the other non-Catholic.' 3. The 'establishment and partial endowment' of a Catholic University—that is, the payment of money out of the provincial treasury in support of a Catholic College with university powers. 4. A Catholic Normal School for the training of teachers. 5. The establishment of Catholic High Schools for boys, and public aid for both these high schools and the convent schools in which girls are now educated. 6. A Catholic central committee of examiners, and also Catholic county examiners. 7. A system of inspection of Catholic schools corresponding to the present system of inspection of Public Schools. 8. Township school districts and boards of trustees, with those schools that are supported by a Catholic majority considered as Catholic schools, and those supported by a Protestant majority treated as Protestant. 9. Special legislative aid granted to 'dissentient schools, whether Protestant or Catholic,' whenever the minority find difficulty in supporting them properly. 10. No text-books approved for Catholic schools by the Education Department without the consent of the Catholic portion of the proposed Council of Public Instruction. 11. No Catholic permitted to apply his school taxes to the support of any other than a Catholic school, and a share of the taxes paid by corporations, apportioned according to the ratio of Catholic to Protestant population, applied in support of Catholic schools. 12. Power given to a Catholic or Protestant minority to apply their taxes in support of a school of their own complexion in an adjacent municipality."

NOVA SCOTIA.

The annual session of the Provincial Normal School at Truro opened on the 14th ult. On the platform of the spacious Assembly Hall were seated Ex-Governor Archibald, Dr. Allison, Supt. of Education, Col. W. M. Blair, M.P.P., the Faculty of the School, and a number of the leading citizens of Truro. The inaugural address was delivered by Principal Calkin, and was a very able presentation of the true details of school education. Short addresses followed from Professors Hall and Eaton, Ex-Governor Archibald, Col. Blair, and the Superintendent of Education. It was announced that over one hundred and fifty applications for admission had been received, and that one hundred and twenty pupil-teachers were in actual attendance. Mr. D. McD. Clarke has been engaged temporarily to take charge of the newly organized preparatory department.