

JOURNAL OF

Province of



EDUCATION

Ontario.

VOL. XXV.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1872.

No. 11.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

	Page.
ADVANTAGES OF SUPERSEDING SCHOOL SECTION DIVISIONS, AND ESTABLISHING A TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION.....	161
I. PAPERS ON EDUCATION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.—1. Schools of Europe and America. 2. Defects in American Schools, and Remedy. 3. A New School Feature. 4. Compulsory Education. 5. Compulsory Education. 6. Why don't somebody do something for the Schools. 7. Colleges for Women. 8. Lindsay Separate Schools. 9. Sunday Schools in Canada.....	164
II. PAPERS ON PRACTICAL EDUCATION.—1. School Reading is not Reading. 2. The Neglected Luxury of Spelling. 3. Primary Lesson in Botany. 4. Practical and Applied Science.—An Important Question. 5. Opening School.....	167
III. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—1. The Rev. Wm. Ryerson. 2. T. C. Street, Esq., M. P. 3. Mrs. Pearce. 4. Mr. Marcus Holmes. 5. "Fanny Fern." 6. J. F. Maguire, Esq., M. P. 7. Sketch of Captain Joseph Brant.....	169
IV. MONTHLY REPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.—2. Meteorology in Canada ..	171
V. MATHEMATICAL DEPARTMENT.—1. To the Editor of the Journal of Education. 2. To the Editor of the Journal of Education.....	172
VI. MISCELLANEOUS.—1. Indian Summer in Canada. 2. Politeness in School. 3. Tact. 4. A Word to Boys. 5. Faithfulness to Employers. 6. Your Evenings, Young Men. 7. Read an Hour a Day. 8. Archbishop Sumner on Obstacles and Improvements.....	172
VII. EDUCATION INTELLIGENCE.....	174
VIII. DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES.....	175

ADVANTAGES OF SUPERSEDING SCHOOL SECTION DIVISIONS, AND ESTABLISHING TOWNSHIP BOARDS OF EDUCATION.

We are glad to observe that there has been a movement in various parts of the country in favour of the Township Board system of schools in preference to that of the present isolated, expensive, and disjointed system of School Sections.

We have collected, and insert in this number of the *Journal*, the opinions and recorded experience of several distinguished and active friends of education in the neighbouring States on this subject. They will well repay perusal, for they deal with a practical subject, and in the light of their experience, we shall be able to see our way the more clearly to the adoption of a township system in our Province under the authority of the 14th section of the School Act passed last year.

We also insert an extract from a letter published in a local paper by D. J. McKinnon, Esq., Inspector of Schools in the County of Peel, in which he discusses same difficulties which are in the way of carrying out the township system, and suggests a practical way by which these difficulties may be removed.

FORMER PROVISIONS IN OUR SCHOOL LAW ON THE SUBJECT.

Ever since 1850, there has been a provision in our School Acts for the establishment of township boards, as contained in the thirty-second section of the Consolidated School Act; but as that section is worded, no such board could be established unless a majority of votes in every single school section of the township was in favour of it. It has happened that out of twelve school sections in a township, the majority of the ratepayers in eleven of them voted for the establishment of a

township board, but the majority in one section voted against it, and thus defeated the wishes of the other eleven-twelfths of the ratepayers. Under these circumstances, the thirty-second section of the School Act has remained a dead letter for twenty years, except so far as one township (Enniskillen) is concerned, although a large majority of the county School Conventions, on two occasions, voted in favour of township boards. The law was in 1871 wisely altered so as to leave the question to the decision of the ratepayers in a majority of the School sections of a township. Should therefore the vote of a majority of the ratepayers in a township be favourable to a change, the municipal council of such township is authorized to form the township into one School municipality, under a board of trustees (as is the case in cities, towns and villages), thus doing away with the inconvenience of separate School section divisions and rates, and giving to parents the right to send their children to the School most convenient to them.

TOWNSHIP BOARDS IN VARIOUS AMERICAN STATES.

1. After trying the School section system for some time, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and other States, have adopted the township board system, and pronounce it immensely superior to the School section system. In the State of New York, a compromise system is authorized by the School Law: that is, one or more School sections can "either severally or jointly resolve themselves into Union Free School districts, with Boards of Education, having authority to grade and classify the Schools under their charge." From the Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for 1870 we learn that there are now 250 such united districts in the State; of them he says: "having had frequent occasion to examine the provisions of this law (*i. e.* the 'Union Free School Act'), and being somewhat familiar with its workings, I am of the opinion that it is the best School system yet devised for all localities where the number of scholars, as in villages, is sufficient to admit of thorough classification." Rev. Dr. (now Bishop) Fraser, in his Report to the English Commissioners, says: "In the State of New York, Union Schools (or united sections) appear to be the most popular and flourishing of all the rural Schools." In this Province, the township council, if the experiment should not prove satisfactory, can at any time repeal its own by-law establishing such board.