

Mr. A. J. Wilkes, of Brantford, wishes to establish a scholarship to be competed for by pupils passing from the Central School to the Collegiate Institute.

The Belleville teachers would rather be allowed to keep pupils in after hours as a punishment. When kept within reasonable limits it is probably as effective and as little open to objection as any other penalty.

A highly successful teachers' institute was held at Stratford towards the close of May. Over a hundred teachers were present and the proceedings were varied and instructive. Dr. McLellan gave a prolecion on Arithmetic and Algebra, and Prof. Bell a series of readings.

The commencement proceedings of Victoria University were more than usually varied and interesting this year. This now veteran institution seems to acquire new vitality with the lapse of years, and is doing in its own chosen hve a vast amount of good to the cause of education.

The Meaford School Board and the head master of the school concur in the opinion that the giving of prizes in schools should be condemned, but that the Educational Depository should be continued in the public interest. The question in both its branches is well worthy the attention of teachers and trustees, seeing that the fate of the Depository will be decided next session of the Legislature.

The Superintendent of Education in the State of Pennsylvania has extended a cordial invitation to the teachers of Ontario to be present at the meeting of the State Teachers' Association, which assembles at Erie, Pa., on the 7th of August. Mr. Wickersham, the Superintendent, is well known to many of our teachers through the medium of his educational publications, and to some of them through the medium of the Centennial Exhibition.

Two girls, one from St. Catharines Collegiate Institute, and one from Hamilton Collegiate Institute, have applied this year for permission to pass the Junior Matriculation Examination in Toronto University. These are the first applications ever sent in by female candidates, and therefore, other than mere chivalrous feelings will make every friend of education hope that they may be highly successful. There is of course no legal obstacle to their admission as under graduates of the University, but this does not imply the right to attend lectures in University College.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously at the May meeting of the Ottawa teachers' association: (1) That Normal Schools should continue, as at present, to impart scholarship to their students, as the falling off in the supply of teachers does not depend so much on inability to teach as upon lack of scholarship on the part of the candidates. (2) That the interests of education would be materially benefitted if trustee elections in cities and towns took place at the same time, and were conducted in the same manner as municipal elections. (3) That as the efficiency and elevation of our educational system depends most on those actually engaged in teaching, any amendment in the law rendering the position of the teacher more permanent and independent would be beneficial to the cause of education.

The question of legality of union school sections created since the passing of the Act of 1874, is one of great practical importance. On this point a recent memorandum of the Minister of Education will prove both instructive and interesting to all who are placed in difficulties in the matter. The following is the memorandum, which sufficiently explains itself.—Mr. Ball, Q. C., Counsel in the case of Halpin vs. Calder reported, 26 Common Pleas, p. 501, submits for my consideration the question, how far the result of this suit has been affected by the amendments to the School Law passed during last session, and the intention of such enactment. In March, 1876, I found, upon reference to the Public School Act of 1874, that no provision of law existed for the formation of unions between portions of the township municipalities, but such provision had existed previously, and that this was a *casus omissus*, or slip which had occurred in the consolidation, which would accordingly require amendment from the Legislature at its next session. I so advised several public school Inspectors when they applied for information on this point; and the judgment subsequently pronounced by the Court of Common Pleas in Halpin vs. Calder, confirmed these views. When present at Ingersoll, last autumn, the solicitor for the defendant brought his position to my attention, and they subsequently sent me a draught clause of an amendment which, as they contended, should be passed to meet this defect in the law. I refused to express any opinion on the point, but brought all the proposed new clauses as to union sections before the Government for discussion before the Act was introduced.

These were all framed by me, to meet practical difficulties which had been brought to my attention in connection with this case and others, and sub-section 4 of section 11 which confirms existing unions as between portions of different municipalities was the definite conclusion of the Government; and in the Legislative Assembly in Committee of the whole, this was extended on the suggestion of Mr. Meredith, M. P. P., to unions within the same municipality. The clear intention of this amendment is to protect school trustees or others who had acted in good faith from being further harrassed through a view of the law which would have been correct had it not been for the fault of the Legislature itself, in inadvertently omitting by apt words to continue the law as it was. As to whether the facts in this case bring the alleged union within the confirmation provided by the 4th sub-section I have no authority to decide, but it would seem clear that further proceedings may be stayed in the suit of Halpin vs. Calder, on the terms mentioned in this sub-section.

(Signed) ADAM CROOKS,
Minister of Education.

Education Department, (Ontario,)

Toronto, 19th April, 1877.

From a circular recently issued by the Department of Education inspectors, examiners, and teachers will learn the manner in which the approaching teachers' examinations are to be conducted, and the conditions under which certificates will be granted. The examination of candidates for first-class certificates will commence on Tuesday, July 10, at nine in the morning; for second-class certificates, on Monday, July 9, at two in the afternoon; and for third-class certificates on Monday, July 16, at two. All first-class candidates will be examined in the Provincial Normal School buildings at Toronto and Ottawa. Second-class teachers will be examined in their respective counties, but their papers, instead of being read as heretofore by the County Examiners, will be transmitted to the Department at Toronto to be read by the Central Committee. The papers of third-class candidates will be read and certificates granted by the County Boards. Candidates for second-class certificates and for the intermediate High School Examination will be examined on the same papers and at the same hours on English Literature, English Grammar and Etymology, Geography, Dictation, Arithmetic, History, Algebra, Book-keeping, Natural Philosophy, Euclid, English Composition, and Chemistry. Additional papers will be prepared for second-class candidates on Botany and Physiology, Music, Drawing, and Education and School Law, but an option is allowed between the English Literature of the intermediate and the Botany and Physiology of the second-class examination. In those subjects on which the papers are the same a higher standard is prescribed for second-class than for intermediate candidates. The following are the principal conditions on which certificates will be awarded under the new Act and Regulations:—Candidates for third-class certificates must furnish satisfactory proof of temperate habits and good moral character. Before obtaining a third-class certificate, a candidate who succeeds in passing the examination in July must attend for one session at one of the County Model Schools to be established, and must pass a satisfactory examination at the close of such session. And if a female, must be sixteen years of age, and if a male, must be eighteen years of age. Third-class certificates are valid only in the county where given, and for three years only, and are not renewable except on the recommendation of the County Inspector, subject to the regulations of the Department; but a teacher holding a third-class certificate may be eligible in less than three years for examination for a second-class certificate, on the special recommendation of the County Inspector. As cases may arise where third-class teachers are unable to qualify themselves for passing the examination prescribed for second-class certificates, and as, nevertheless, it is desirable in some such cases that the teachers who are in this position should not be excluded from the profession, the Minister may, on the recommendation of the County Inspector, allow a third-class teacher of experience and proved teaching ability to teach permanently, or for any specified length of time on a third-class certificate within the county for which the certificate has been granted. But each such case must be specially reported on by the Inspector, who shall state fully the grounds which, in his opinion, warrant the departure from the ordinary rule. Candidates from the Normal Schools are eligible for examination for second-class certificates as provided by the seventh regulation. Other candidates for second-class (Provincial) certificates must furnish satisfactory proof of temperate habits and good moral character, and of having successfully taught in a school three