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The Canada School Journal

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.
Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.
Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.*

The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course, unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME.

—A number of people have labored under the misapprehension that the Public School programme for Ontario was elastic to a much greater extent than it really is. For rural schools a certain very limited power has been given to inspectors and trustees to modify the programme in some of the subjects. Inspectors and School Boards in cities and towns have no such power to diminish the work prescribed by the Department. They may add to the prescribed work that which is optional, but they have no power to lessen it, nor do we advocate placing such power in their hands. We hold that the Department should issue two programmes, one for cities and towns and the other for rural districts, and that these should be prescribed. If licence is allowed to any but a very limited extent and for express reasons, many careless school boards would cut down the programme with the single view of securing a cheaper teacher. School Boards everywhere will do cheerfully what is laid down clearly as their duty by the Department, unless the Department oversteps the mark, and becomes tyrannical or arbitrary for mere whim's sake.

If it is the intention of the Minister of Education to revise the programme, we cannot give him better advice, than to urge him to follow the course pursued by Mr. Mundella in England. He first called to his aid a number of the practical educators of England and with their assistance prepared a "revised code"; which he afterwards submitted to a smaller committee of educational experts for revision. It was then placed before parliament with the understanding that it should lie over for a year before being passed, so that it might be subjected to the criticism of the entire country. In this way Mr. Mundella will get the benefit of the suggestions of all who have opinions concerning the code, and when it is passed it will be likely to prove satisfactory. We hope our Minister may make progress in the same deliberate manner.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATES.

—The letter of our correspondent in another column raises an important question. He is the representative of a large class who are among the best teachers in Ontario, and we fully sympathize with him in the view that professional skill and experience should receive a much higher recognition than is at present accorded to it. The teachers' section of the Ontario Teachers' Association passed a resolution at the last meeting in favor of this view. Unfortunately they did not indicate any plan by which so desirable a result could be attained. We recognize fully the difficulty of adequately awarding to ability and experience the position to which they are justly entitled, by any kind of certificate. We do not think that it is asking too much, however, to claim that as the professional First Class certificate is distinct from the non-professional First Class Certificate, the former should be placed on the same footing as the latter. At present the professional certificate is merely a subordinate matter. It cannot be obtained as distinct from the non-professional. Any school boy who has been crammed to the passing point at a High School may write for a non-professional First Class Certificate and get from the Department a statement to the effect that he has passed the First Class examination. This he uses in making applications for situations, and School Boards, who in many cases have given over attempting to understand the regulations of the Department, give him the preference over men of experience and ability, who have not been able to reach the First-class standard in some of the subjects. We do not ask that those who succeed in passing the non-professional examination shall not be permitted to receive from the Department the evidence of their success. We only ask that those who pass the professional First Class examination shall receive similar consideration. If this is not done, it need not be wondered at, that the professional examination and professional training will be regarded as unimportant matters by teachers generally. Surely no more disastrous impression could go abroad than this.

The Minister of Education only needs to look into the deserted halls of the Normal Schools to see the results of the present system of elevating the comparative importance of the non-professional work. The empty echo that comes in our Normal Schools to the question, "Where are the First Class Candidates?" should startle him. We hope he may ask the question, and that it may lead to a much needed change.

—We are pleased to note that W. S. Clendinning, Esq., has been appointed to the Inspectorate of Walkerton, in addition to his already important position of Inspector of Public Schools in Bruce County. This District was formerly under the Inspectorship of the Rev. Dr. Bell, who has been appointed one of the Professors in Queen's College.