

The following now constitute the Board of Examiners for Elgin county:—W. Atkin, chairman, J. McLean, W. W. Rutherford and S. McColl.

Messrs. E. W. McIntyre and F. Feare, students of the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, have matriculated in law.

The action of the county council in leaving off from the Board of Examiners the principal of the Collegiate Institute, who has held the position for fourteen years, must surely have been an oversight. As St. Thomas sends up to the Model School more teachers than the other High Schools put together, it would seem that if the master of any school should be on the Board the Collegiate Institute should be represented.—*St. Thomas Journal*.

Mr. A. Barber has been appointed Master of Cobourg Model School. He is one of the most successful teachers in this county.—*Canadian Statesman*.

Miss Maggie Drysdale, of Perth, and Miss M. L. Thompson, of Pakenham, will teach the junior department of the Almonte Public School during 1886.

Miss Bella McCullum, of Exeter, has been engaged to teach school near Clinton, next year, at a salary of \$300.

Our present teacher, Mr. Edgington, has been engaged for the coming year by the Bowmanville Board of Trustees. We congratulate the Bowmanville people upon securing the services of Mr. Edgington, who is an acquisition to any locality. Mr. L. A. Copeland, of Otterville, who comes to us highly recommended, will be our teacher for the coming year. Miss Rose has also resigned her position as assistant teacher. Her place, we understand, has not yet been filled. Miss Rose's many friends will be sorry to see her leave.—*Mt. Elgin correspondent, Sentinel-Review*.

Harrison's Neighborhood School Section, Peel County, advertised for a teacher for 1886, and the trustees received 115 applications, the salaries asked ranging from \$250 to \$500. They have accepted the offer of a lady holding a second-class Normal, who asked \$350.

The engagement of a principal for the Model and Public Schools cause a "scene" at the meeting of the School Board, Forest, Nov. 13th. A petition was presented, signed by about 180 ratepayers and four teachers of the village, asking for the re-appointment of Mr. J. R. Brown. This was backed up by a statement made by the principal himself, showing that a candidate from his school received a higher number of marks at the last entrance examination than any candidate in any other school in the province. This statement was taken exception to by the Inspector, Mr. C. A. Barnes, and a lively discussion was the result, participated in by several of the large audience present. The Board adjourned without doing more than reading the applications. At the next meeting the motion that the application of Mr. H. W. Harlton for the position of principal, at a salary of \$700, be accepted, was lost, three members being for and three against it. It was then moved that Mr. John R. Brown be appointed at a salary of \$700. This was lost, the voting being equally divided. The Inspector was requested to telegraph the Minister of Education for instructions as to how the Board should act. The reply was that the Board must choose a teacher on whom a majority can agree. It is to come up again at a meeting to be held Dec. 4th.

An "old chorister" writes us (*The School Journal*, New York) as follows: "Of all monumental liars, commend me to the musical quack who asserts that fifteen minutes a day of musical instruction will enable children to read at sight as intelligently as if they were reading any prose article. Ask the chorus masters of the opera, or the musical directors of the surpliced boy choirs, how many individuals come under their observation who can read vocal music at sight as readily as they can read a newspaper article over. Would you, Mr. Editor, undertake to read a poem or prose article, without glancing at it previously, before an audience, and believe you could do the subject justice? The poor fellows—vocalists—seeking a situation in our churches, will tell the donkeys composing the music committee that they can sing anything at sight, as that is the first question asked. The thing is too absurd to waste much argument on. A committee of our music teachers went to Boston expressly to hear these *sight singers*. "Humbug" was their report.

Waterdown School Board had a protracted meeting on Wednesday evening of last week. It was long after 10 o'clock before the numerous applications and testimonials of teachers were read. After careful consideration Mr. T. Otway Page, of Port Perry High School, was appointed Headmaster or Principal

of the High School. Mr. G. V. McLean, of Toronto, was appointed assistant High School teacher. Miss Eliza King, of Dundas, was chosen teacher of third division, public school, and Miss Bella Moore, of Caledonia, teacher of the fourth division. Mr. W. N. Stevenson and Miss Fraser retain their old positions. This infusion of new blood, it is hoped, will be beneficial.—*Canadian Champion*.

The Elgin County Council has declined to ask for the retention of the Vienna High School. That school "must go."

Mr. D. A. Grout, headmaster of Sparta Public School, has been re-engaged for 1886 at a salary of \$500.

The Acton School Board had seventy-three applications for three junior positions in their schools.

Mr. D. McDougall, the popular headmaster of the Beaverton public school, has been re-engaged for the coming year.

Tell each of your older pupils to bring in all the geographies and cyclopedias they have. Our lesson to-morrow will be England. Find out three facts concerning each of the cities of London, Liverpool, and York. You may also make a map of England on paper, drawing all the rivers, and locating correctly ten principal cities. This is a "live" lesson, and given by a live teacher, and the pupils in that school will soon learn to "investigate for themselves. But turn out all the geographies except one, fence up the county, and light is kept away. The doctrine is a wrong one.—*American Journal of Education*.

Miss Isabella Kirkland was engaged to teach the ward school, Forest, at a salary of \$275 per annum, and in case she be already engaged that Miss Nellie Franks be appointed at \$260. Miss C. F. Sutherland was engaged to teach the fourth division, but if she can not accept, Miss Amie Salmon is to be appointed. The salary is \$300 a year.

The School Board, Charlottetown, P.E.I., have closed their schools in consequence of the prevalence of smallpox in that city.

Of the Teachers' Reading Circles, the United States Commissioner of Education, General Eaton, writes: "The movement is one of extreme interest. Some of our most thoughtful and eminent educators have been fearing that the profession of teaching in this country was to run "skim milk," as they described it, because the teachers read so little. If teachers will read wisely selected matter, they will speedily make up for many deficiencies. I should be delighted to aid the movement, and may be able to do so at an early day." We have had too much "skim milk" in the schools. Teachers who are isolated, who aim only to pass the required examinations, and make no new intellectual acquisitions, must lack power to quicken intellectual life in others. Very few persons are capable of maintaining genuine intellectual life entirely by their own efforts. They need to be stimulated by contact with thoughts of others, to drink from the ever fresh fountains of literature and science, to keep themselves in contact with the busy, inquisitive, progressive thought of the age, or they sink to a merely sensuous and emotional existence. How can such a person be of real assistance to another in awakening intellectual life?—*Wisconsin Journal of Education*.

We are indebted to Mr. R. W. Doan, the courteous secretary of the Ontario Teachers' Association, for a copy of the minutes of the twenty-fifth annual convention of that body. The proceedings of the Teachers' Parliament—if we may apply the term to an assembly where laws are only suggested, not made—are full of the deepest interest to every member of the profession. The pamphlet should be in the hands of every teacher, because the ideas advanced in the several resolutions, combined with the practical papers read, must tend to broaden his views, extend his knowledge, and increase his usefulness. The printer, Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, has done his part faithfully in producing a neat, well-printed, and readable book.

That teaching has become a profession few will now deny. As such it requires special training, experience, and aptitude to insure its successful practice. Schools will fall short of the highest degree of efficiency just in proportion to the lack of these qualities in their crops of teachers. System and supervision may do much, but they can never be made satisfactory substitutes for any of these things.—*Waco (Texas) School Report*.

A little fellow of five, with his first buttons on, being told that the baby wanted to kiss him, replied: "Yes, he takes me for his papa!"