

concerned ; or else take effectual steps for the enforcement of the 13th or 43rd sections of the School Act against the trustees themselves or their secretary-treasurer. Local superintendents should in all cases endeavour to ascertain from the teacher, or otherwise, whether the amount claimed in the order of the trustees is legally and *bona fide* due to the teacher himself for his professional services.

PRESENT HIGHLY FAVOURED POSITION OF THE BRITISH SOLDIERS, AS REGARDS EDUCATION.—With reference to an interesting communication on this subject, which appeared in our columns a short time ago, we have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the following extract, from a late English paper, on the great educational benefits derived from the *limited enlistment* system :

“The *limited enlistment bill* is a vast improvement on the old system, which was generally for life ; for now a young man may enter the service at 18, and be dismissed at 28, a perfectly educated man. This phrase is no hyperbole, for education in the army is not confined at present, as it was of yore, to the mere rudiments, sufficient to render the possessor of them capable of writing out the orders of paying a company—but embraces a well-grounded knowledge of history and geography and a competent acquirement, not only of arithmetic and mathematics, but of geometry, algebra, mensuration, and fortification, so that, on returning to “civil life,” the soldier is not compelled to fall back on the little mechanical knowledge which, peradventure, he owned before he exchanged the cobbler’s awl, or the tailor’s needle, for the musket and bayonet, but may earn an honourable existence by teaching those sciences which he has acquired in his military capacity. The difficulty which the SCHOOLMASTERS of regiments now have, is, *not the task of employment in teaching, but positive overwork, the consequence of the avidity with which the men who have joined the battalion attend the classes.* The barrack library—successful rival of the barrack canteen—towards the support of which the soldier now cheerfully pays his penny per month, convincingly proves that the desire for education has taken root in the British service ; and we trust the time is not far distant when the reproach will be removed from our army of being, in point of intellectual cultivation, so far behind the armies of France and Prussia.”

EXTRACTS FROM LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS’ REPORTS—1850.

—As intimated in our last number, we give the following extracts from the Annual School Reports of the undermentioned local superintendents—and from other official documents received at the Education Office during the past month. The extracts relate chiefly to the gradual extension of the principle of free and universal education to numerous school sections in the several townships of Upper Canada :

Rev. James Baird, Township of Hope : “Several of the sections have resolved that the teacher’s salary shall be raised by a tax on property, and that the schools shall be free. I am pleased with this ; it is just what should be. I desire with all my heart that every school section in Upper Canada would resolve on the same.”

Rev. W. J. Macdowell, Mountain : “I may state that the trustees of many sections have taxed the division for the full amount of the teacher’s salary ; and it seems to work so well, that, in my opinion, all the other schools will be free next year. We are getting better books than heretofore ; and, on the whole, education is evidently on the advance.”

Mr. A. Fletcher, Darlington : “In accordance with the Act, a meeting of the inhabitants of school section No. 18 was held, and the free system unanimously adopted ; since which, the number of scholars has so increased that one teacher is not capable of managing them ; nor is the school room large enough ; the trustees therefore deem it necessary to provide another school—probably a female one.”

Rev. Daniel Clark, Kenyon, &c. : “It is probable that what has occurred with respect to an important public question ; the provisions of the recent excellent school Act ; and the change that is taking place in public sentiment will greatly improve the class of teachers employed. There seems to be a growing desire to procure suitable teachers, and to institute free schools, which will be a very

great public benefit, extending the privileges of a sound education to the poorest.”

Simon Newcomb, Esq., Bayham : “The people of Bayham have manifested more interest in the schools this year than heretofore. In proof of this, I may mention that sections 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 14, 16, 17, and part 3, have decided in favour of free schools ;—these sections contain 712 children of school age. Indeed, nothing but a want of well-qualified teachers can now stop the progress of education in this township. This improvement in our school affairs, resulting from the diffusion of knowledge on educational subjects, has been chiefly effected by the circulation of your excellent periodical—the *Journal of Education.*”

Rev. Samuel Armour, Cavan : “I now commence to visit the schools, and in each, on my first visit, to deliver a public lecture, and to endeavour to have a regular series of books introduced into each school. I am fully persuaded that the present is the best school law that has been made, and will effect much good if properly carried out in all its parts.”

Andrew Cunningham, Esq., West Gwilliambury : “The section in which I live, as well as the adjacent section of Bond Head, have been made free schools this year ;—the consequence of which is, that, instead of an average of 25 or 30 pupils, there is now an average of 50 or 60 !”

Rev. Wm. Ormiston, A. B., Clarke : “The general character of the common schools in this township is rapidly improving. New and improved modes of teaching are being introduced into nearly all of them. A higher appreciation of the importance of common schools—a deeper sense of the necessity of having good ones, and a more enlarged spirit of liberality in supporting them, characterize the people—while a spirit of generous emulation, and, in some cases, of lofty enthusiasm, distinguishes the teacher : the efforts of which are already apparent in the increasing number, neatness, and progress of the pupils. I deeply regret, however, that there seems to be no little misapprehension, and much unfounded prejudice on the subject of free schools. Some sections, however, support the school entirely, either by a general tax, or by voluntary subscription. The principle is gaining ground, and must ultimately succeed. In less than ten years I believe it will be a maxim of world-wide notoriety : *that a thorough common school education is the Canadian’s birth-right.*”

Thomas J. Graffe, Esq., WOLFORD : “There were during the year 1850, five free schools in WOLFORD. Under the old system, in 1849, the average attendance of these schools was 150 ; but, in 1850, under the free school system, it has been 202—being an advance of 52 in favour of free schools.”

Rev. John Armour, Sarnia, &c. : “You will perceive there is one school section in Plympton, and another in Warwick, that have, at their annual meeting, determined on trying the free school system. This is a beginning here, and I think this principle will be adopted speedily in all the schools.”

Jacob Howell, Esq., Sophiasburgh : “I am well convinced that the provisions of the present school Act will give increased life and vigour to the schools.”

Rev. John McMorine, Ramsay : “The township Council at its meeting on the 3rd February last, voted £12 10s. for school libraries to be divided among the sections along with any sum which they may receive out of the £3,000 provincial annual grant. Four or five of the sections have decided to have free schools, and the rest will, I think, soon follow the example. The new law has not yet had a fair trial, but I believe it will work well.”

Robert Hamilton, Esq., Longuiel, &c. : “Four out of the five schools in operation in Longuiel have unanimously adopted the free school system.”

D. W. Freeman, Esq., Windham : “When I first brought the subject of free schools before the inhabitants of this township, at an annual town meeting, they were almost unanimous in expressing their indignation at what they considered would be a monstrous injustice. At present there are strong advocates for that system in every school section, and several of our best schools are now progressing under it.”

Charles Scarlett, Esq., Dawn : “The free school system is almost unanimously approved of in this township, and will be adopted without doubt for the future.”