

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

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## Teachers' Salaries.

The Department being firmly resolved not to sanction reductions in teachers' salaries, nor to permit the closing or degrading of Model Schools, wherever these shall have been established, teachers and others interested in education are requested to notify the Department of any retrogressive action on the part of ill-advised school functionaries having in view the accomplishment of these objects. In several cases of recent occurrence the counsels of the Superintendent have had the most beneficial effect in rescuing the schools from the hands of incompetent teachers, and preventing the forfeiture of the school grant in consequence.

The School Commissioners and Trustees will also bear in mind that the cost of building or repairing schoolhouses must not be allowed to interfere with salaries; nor can any portion of the school funds be lent at interest—not even if the profit should be credited to the municipality. The cost of building and of repairs is to be defrayed by a special tax; it is *illegal* to divert the ordinary school revenue to these objects. The Government grants, together with the proceeds of the annual assessment and of monthly rates, are to be devoted exclusively to the payment of teachers' salaries and to the furnishing of schoolhouses. The purchasing of books or stationery for the use of pupils with the funds arising out of the *ordinary revenue* is illegal, unless indeed this were done on a distinct understanding that the money would be reimbursed by the parents when paying the monthly rate. THE ORDINARY REVENUE OF THE SCHOOL MUNICIPALITY IS TO BE EXPENDED IN PAYING THE TEACHERS.

In support of what we have said on former occasions as regards the futility of attempting to evade the rule requiring a three months' notice prior to the dismissal of a teacher at the expiration of his engagement, we may now mention that the School Commissioners of Repentigny have been condemned to pay a heavy indemnity to a teacher on whom a notice had been served solely with the view of bringing about a reduction in his salary.

## Law to Protect Birds.

As the law recently enacted for the protection of small birds chiefly concerns the children residing in the rural districts, we beg to call the attention of teachers to its great importance. By making known its provisions, they would render a service alike to pupils and parents.

From the 1st of March to the 1st of August it is forbidden to kill birds, except birds of prey, ravens, crows, and wild pigeons. It is also forbidden to rob or destroy nests, or to set traps or snares for birds. Any person offending against these provisions is liable to a fine of TEN DOLLARS.

The principal reason for protecting birds is that by destroying insects they in reality protect the crops; to their destruction must be attributed the alarming increase in the number of insects which have proved so injurious for several years past.

## School of Agriculture of Ste. Anne.

From the recently published report of the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture we glean the following particulars touching the agricultural school at St. Ann.

To the branches already taught, comprising more especially botany, natural philosophy and agricultural chemistry, were added in 1863 a course in veterinary art by Dr. Têtu, and another of law with special reference to its application in agricultural districts, by Mr. F. Deguise, N. P. The course of natural philosophy is very extended, and comprises all the branches necessary to the full elucidation of phenomena coming under the observation of the agriculturist and which it is so essential that he should understand. Under the head *agricultural chemistry* much valuable practical information is conveyed, such as that which has reference to the manufacturing of maple sugar, potash, pearlash, &c.; the properties of vegetable substances, manures and of fertilizers of all sorts, the proper distribution and rotation of crops; and drainage, with lessons in taking levels and measurements. Dr. Têtu's course has reference not only to the treatment of domestic animals and the care which should be bestowed on their housing in order to insure health and comfort, but extends also to animal physiology. The course of law by Mr. Deguise gives a clear understanding of the rights and privileges enjoyed by the cultivators of the soil and also of the obligations weighing upon them. The peculiarities of the different breeds of live stock, together with the best methods to be followed for their improvement, is a subject which, as might be expected, receives special attention, every facility, in fact, being extended to the pupils for obtaining the best possible information in this particular. The instruction imparted in the different departments of agriculture is of a thoroughly practical character, the pupils being required to take an active part in all the labors of the farm under a proper system of distribution of labor. A practical acquaintance with the use of tools, implements and machines, and with the principal operations of the farm, completes the course.

By a very simple method of book-keeping which is also taught in the school, the profits or losses resulting from any farm or stock operation may be at once determined.

The course extends over two years if the pupil on entering has a sufficient knowledge of the French language and arithmetic, otherwise it is of three years; the only conditions necessary are, 1st, a good moral character, attested by testimonials; 2nd, that the candidate be at least 16 years of age; and 3rd, capacity to read and write French, and an acquaintance with the four fundamental rules of arithmetic.

On the 13th December 1863, the Board of Agriculture, fully appreciating the usefulness of this institution, appropriated \$1000 to the founding of twenty-two bursaries. The result, as regards increased attendance, however, has not proved so favorable as might have been expected; still there is every reason to hope that the enterprise will prove eminently successful in the end and be the means of introducing the most approved methods of culture throughout the country.

## District of Bedford Teachers' Association.

The Teachers' Association met on Thursday, May 18th, at Knowlton, and assigned the Prizes offered for Penmanship. The Association offers the same prizes for the next year in Penmanship, and also two prizes for the best maps of the District of Bedford, to be drawn by any scholar not over 16 years of age, who shall have attended the