

At the last meeting of the London Teachers' Association it was moved by Mr. J. T. Colton, seconded by Mr. A. C. Stewart, that this Association respectfully request the Board of Education of the City of London to pay the teachers' salaries monthly instead of quarterly, as heretofore. Carried.

The managing committee of the St. Thomas School Board lately reported that they were willing to give Mr. Watt the use of one of the rooms in the school, after school hours, for the purpose of teaching music to those pupils who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity, on condition that the Board be not held responsible for fees.

The average High School attendance in Perth was 90, non-residents 25. The average Public School attendance for April 330. No. on roll 411.

The Public School teachers of Hamilton have organized a "Hamilton Teachers' Association," with the following staff of office-bearers:—President, A. Macallum, M.A., LL.B.; Vice-President, G. W. Johnson; Treasurer, Miss S. Bennetto; Secretary, A. Scott Crunkshank; Directors, W. H. Morton, Miss E. White, Miss E. Henry, Miss M. E. Armstrong, Miss E. Daville.

The Inspector for St. Thomas recommended lately that on account of the great overcrowding in the junior grades, the pupils in the first book of reading have their hours shortened to say three hours per day, dividing the children of a particular room into two divisions, teaching one of the divisions one part of the day and the other during the remaining part. It was resolved that the managing committee should carry out the recommendations of the Inspector as far as practicable.

A truant officer is needed in Nanpance. At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees the chairman said that he frequently saw pupils in the neighborhood of the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, and they had the boldness to tell him they were playing truant. A discussion ensued in reference to truancy, in which it was agreed that parents should look for the monthly reports, and without that it was impossible to prevent frequent absence of pupils.

The closing exercises of Victoria University were of an unusually interesting character this year. Rev. Dr. Ormiston, of New York, a graduate of the University, delivered an eloquent *Bacca-laureate* address to the graduating class. The Alumni meeting was held on Monday, D. C. McHenry, M. A., in the chair. Rev. Dr. Burwash presented a complete list of the members of all of the Faculties of the institution, from its inauguration as a University to the present time, together with a list of the graduates in all of the departments. The total number of graduates in Arts was 256; in Medicine, 812; in Law, 70; in Theology, 39; and in the new department of Science, 2. Grand total of graduates in all of the Faculties, 1,177. One fourth of all the graduates of Ontario have come from Victoria. The Annual Convocation was largely attended. The Hon. Adam Crooks, Minister of Education; Rev. Dr. Ryerson; Hon. W. McDougall, and other distinguished visitors were present. A very successful conversation followed the Convocation.

At the Division Court at Bobcaygeon, May 14th, Miss Esther Davis sued the Trustees of School Section No. 3, Verulam, for \$42, the amount of municipal grant which the Inspector had kept back from said section on account of the teacher neglecting to keep the Daily Register properly and make out the Annual Report, and which amount the trustees had deducted from her salary. Judgment was given for the defendants, on the ground that the teacher had not fulfilled her contract. The case was tried before Judge Dennistoun, of Peterborough. Mr. Barron, of Fenelon Falls, appeared for the plaintiff.

In West Middlesex the following regulations have been issued by the Boards of Examiners. They agree with those adopted by other Boards throughout the district:—"All whose certificates expire in July, 1878, require the recommendation of the Inspector in order to obtain the renewals; so far as West Middlesex is concerned, the recommendations can only be obtained by passing the non-professional examination required from new candidates; in some cases it may be necessary, besides this, to instruct the applicant for renewal to spend a term at our County Model School. Those now teaching who feel their inability to comply with the conditions for renewal, should promptly notify their trustees, so that they may be in a position to secure a teacher for the remainder of the year. Several ladies and gentlemen holding Provincial certificates are now seeking situations, several more will be similarly situated at the close of the Normal School examination, on the 30th June. These will be available for vacancies, and should expect sympathy and encouragement from those retiring, to secure

equivalent qualifications. It is certainly not too much to expect a candidate after teaching three years, and studying with a view to obtaining a second, to be able to pass the examination for third-class certificates."

The number of teachers in Brantford is 28, 25 females and 3 males; one of the gentlemen acts as writing-master for all the schools. Total expenditure for 1877, \$14,609.00. For teachers' salaries, \$8,775.37. The Board has employed Constable Dume as truant officer. The Collegiate Institute is about to enlarge its grounds by purchasing the lots in the rear of their present building. The Public School Board has planted a large number of trees this spring about their various schools.

His Honor Judge Elliott delivered a very practical address before the East Middlesex Teachers' Association at its last meeting. In reference to the value of our system of Public Schools he spoke as follows:—"We must remember that under our system the government can only be a reflex of the people. Ignorance is the condition which the unprincipled demagogue will always court. To close our public schools would be to consign us to a reign of ignorance, and open the field to men of shams wider than ever. Many well-meaning persons will say, but would you not combine religious and intellectual instruction? To this inquiry candid people must admit that we must bend to circumstances. We are split into many sects, and to introduce dogmatic theology would ruin the schools. But the sublime ethics of the Gospel furnish a common ground for all."

Inspector Slack closes his last report to the Minister of Education with the following remarks:—"Seven years have now nearly passed away since the great improvement was made in our School Law, which came into force in June 1871, and it is time for us to pause and reflect upon the progress that we have made, and the position we occupy to-day. This I will do very briefly. In a material point we have done well, but little remains to be accomplished, as will be seen by reference to my "Detailed Reports." As far as passing a sufficient number of legally qualified teachers, through our examinations, we have also been very successful; very few "Permits" have now to be granted, and they generally to assistants. Our schools are conducted as well as can be expected, in accordance with the "Law and General Regulations." The outward appearance that we have to present displays signs of life, activity and earnestness in our School history. There remains to be seen whether there is that inward life of improvement in teachers and pupils, without which lasting good cannot be achieved. This to my mind is not so satisfactory as it might be. The "routine" system has not yet been eradicated. There is yet too much attention paid to cramming the memory rather than to developing the powers of the mind. The "art of teaching" has not yet attained to the position in which we hope to see it. Reading in too many of our schools is without that life and taste which should characterize it in order to make it efficient. Arithmetic is yet too much taught by rule and without a practical bearing. Grammar savors too much of text-books, and is lacking in its practical application to Analysis and Composition. Our pupils, as a rule, are not sufficiently educated to *think for themselves*. To these points we must all now direct our special attention until not only in *external* but *internal* appearances we may be able to boast of the efficiency which should be expected of those working under the numerous advantages of our excellent Educational system.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. L. SLACK, M.A., I. P.S., Co. Lanark.

Perth, May 1st, 1878.

QUEBEC.

The Examination of Candidates for Teachers in the Public Schools was held on May 7th. This examination is held half-yearly. For the first time the questions were all printed and the answers given in writing this year. This is doubtless a move in the right direction, although several improvements and alterations would seem to be required in details. For instance, it seems hardly right that the same number of marks should be given for every subject; nor yet that Examiners should be allowed to assign what number of marks they like to separate questions. The majority of the candidates appear to be ladies. In Quebec city, out of eleven candidates two only were of the opposite sex. This will not perhaps seem strange, when the fact is known that the yearly salary of Public School Teachers is often not more than \$120. The Premier, Hon. Mr. Joly, speaking at St. Hyacinthe, said that the women who scrubbed the floors of the Legislative Halls received a better remuneration than teachers. He promised to reduce the