

Of public school library books there were 29,400 volumes of *History*; on *Zoology*, 12,098 volumes, on *Botany*, 2,174; on *Natural Phenomena*, 4,819; on *Physical Science*, 3,749; on *Geology and Mineralogy*, 1,400; on *Natural Philosophy*, 2,674; on *Chemistry*, 1,183; on *Agricultural Chemistry*, 687; on *Agriculture*, 7,390; on *Manufactures*, 7,476; of *General Literature*, 16,359; of *Travels*, 12,478; of *Biography*, 18,406; *Tales*, 45,651; *Teachers' Library*, 1,799.

The amount provided and expended for maps, apparatus, and prize books, was \$11,816—decrease \$6,308.

There were 2,201 maps of different kinds distributed during the year. "The number of globes, orreries, tellurians, sets of apparatus, and various articles was 1,474, including 3 complete sets of Meteorological Apparatus (1).

The number of sheets of *Natural History and Phenomena*, *Scripture History*, and other *Object Lessons* was 12,350; the number of *Prize Books* was 8,045—being an increase under this head of 5,468 volumes."

The total value of maps, libraries, apparatus, prize and school books, supplied from the Educational Depositories to municipalities and school sections, in 1858, is set down at \$22,765—decrease \$4,013. The total supplied from 1851 to the end of 1858, being \$156,378.

In relation to the above the following extracts will not be found uninteresting:—

"That the books for libraries, and maps and apparatus of every description, are furnished to the remotest municipalities and school sections in Upper Canada, at lower prices than they are retailed to the public in London, Edinburgh, Boston, New York, or Philadelphia; in addition to which one hundred per cent. is added to the local contributions of our municipalities and school sections for these purposes.

"That all the text-books used in the schools (except the classical, and one or two others,) are printed in Canada, and mostly on paper of Canadian manufacture; and nearly all the maps and apparatus (such as globes, orreries, tellurians, &c., &c., &c.) are manufactured in Canada, after having been carefully revised or improved under the direction of the Department. Copies and models are furnished by the Department to the publishers and manufacturers, and they are allowed to use them at their discretion in producing articles for sale to all individuals and families desiring them, while the Department confines its supplies to the municipalities and school sections. It is highly creditable to the parties engaged in this publishing and manufacture, to state, that their work is generally not only equal in point of excellence to that of the English and American makers, but, in many cases, it is quite superior, and, at the same time, cheaper.

"That this method of creating and developing Canadian manufactures of articles seldom produced in a new country, and of supplying the municipalities and school sections with libraries and all the appliances of school instruction, must largely contribute to the improvement of the schools, and to the intellectual and social advancement of the country."

In reference to the superannuated or worn out teachers of common schools, the Report states the number of pensioners on the small fund allowed for their relief to have been 170. Of these 15 died before receiving the pension for 1858. Of the 155 survivors—147 male and 8 female teachers—the average age was 65 years, and their average period of service $21\frac{1}{2}$ years. 51 were members of the Church of England; 50 members of the Presbyterian Churches; 27 of the Church of Rome; 18 of the Methodist Churches; 5 of the Baptist Churches, &c. 79 were natives of Ireland, 52 of Scotland, 15 of England, 14 belonged to Upper Canada, 6 were from the United States, 2 from Lower Canada, 1 from Wales, and 1 from Nova-Scotia.

Six dollars per annum is the maximum of the sum allowed under the provisions of the law to the pensioner for every year that he has taught a common school in Upper Canada. Owing to the insufficiency of the fund (\$1,000, besides subscriptions), the amount afforded to each pensioner would be under two dollars for each year of tuition, so that no new claimants could be admitted except such

as paid annual subscriptions. The teachers who availed themselves of the privilege were comparatively few, but, adds the Report, "as the existing pensioners die, those who survive will, of course, receive a larger dividend; and the teachers who subscribe will be materially assisted when they become worn out, as none but subscribers will hereafter be entitled to participate in the fund."

The Normal Schools are represented as being in a very efficient condition. The number of applications and admissions exceeded those of former years. The first session 162 students were admitted, and the second 196; total—358. Of this number 186 had been teachers. It was also anticipated that the Model Grammar School not long opened, would be quite successful.

The Educational Museum founded after the example of the Imperial system, had been visited by many persons from all parts of the country, and from abroad. As a means of imparting direct instruction, nothing can be more efficient than an institution of this kind, especially one possessing an extensive collection.

Tenth Conference of the Teachers' Association in Conjunction with the Jacques-Cartier Normal School, Held Friday, the 27th January, 1860.

The President having taken the chair, the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. Messrs. Roch Martineau and Elie Moineau were appointed to prepare essays to be read at the meeting in May, and the following subject was chosen for debate at next meeting:—"Whether arithmetic, geography, general history, &c., can be better taught from a system of oral teaching from notes or from text books?"

The Superintendent of Public Instruction then addressed the meeting, and, in the course of his remarks, alluded to the means recently adopted for bringing our teachers to the highest state of efficiency. He then announced the formation of new districts, and the appointment of new inspectors, expressing a hope that these would, as far as practicable, be selected from among the teachers of the district to which they were appointed; and added, that by taking an active part in the Association, and attending the meetings, teachers would become better known to the department. He urged them to consider that their advancement depended chiefly on their own exertions; salary should not be placed above every object; other resources could be rendered available; as an example, he would suggest horticulture. He invited all teachers to be present at these meetings, and to send to the *Journal of Education* contributions on any subject they may choose, to be treated as best suited the talent and taste of each correspondent. He concluded by reading a paper on "the present position of public teachers in France," ably written, by Mr. Theodore Barrau.

Mr. Jardiin followed, with a lecture on the method of teaching mathematics.

The Secretary having stated the subject to be debated as follows:—"Whether it would be of more advantage to date the commencement of the scholastic year from the 1st May or from the 1st July."—Messrs. Emard, Moffatt, and Giroux thought the proper time would be the middle of August, as the vacation would then occur during the greatest heat of summer.

Mr. Boudrias held a different opinion. September, he said, would be the month, as the vacation would then correspond to the harvest time.

Two of the former speakers pointed out several objections, and were answered by Mr. Leroux, who was followed on the same side by Messrs. Bourbonniere and Simays.

Mr. Valade proposed the 1st or 15th of October, and urged the importance of skilled horticulture. Mr. Leroux supported this proposition, and said that during the time of harvest the schools were almost deserted, and that teachers themselves required leisure to reap what little they may have had time to sow.

Messrs. Gauvreau and Perrin held the same language with the last speaker.

The President having reviewed the arguments advanced on both sides, declared his intention of putting the question to the vote, when Mr. Boudrias, seconded by Mr. Emard, moved an adjournment until $1\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, P. M., which was agreed to.

At the hour appointed the President again took the chair, and after some further debate, the members present unanimously pronounced themselves for dating the scholastic year from the 1st of September—the vacation to commence the 15th of July.

Mr. J. V. Regnaud, a Professor in the Normal School, having been called, addressed a few words of kind advice to the teachers, which were received with applause. The thanks of the meeting were then tendered the Hon. Mr. Chauveau, and Messrs. Verreau,

(1) A set of Meteorological Instruments, &c., consists of. 1 Self-Registering Maximum Thermometer, 1 Minimum Thermometer, 1 Standard Barometer, 1 Hygrometer, (manufactured by Negretti & Zambra, London); Rain Gauge, Drew's Meteorology, Glaisher's Hygrometrical Tables, Record Book, Book of instructions, Register, Abstract Book, Plan of Stars, &c. Wind Vane procured at the Station.

These instruments have been sent to the Meteorological Stations of the Senior County Grammar Schools, a list of which is annexed to the Report.