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## CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

	PAGE
COMPETITION SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS .....	97
I. SCHOOL AND COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS .....	98
II. EDUCATION IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.—(1) Teachers and Taught; (2) New Educational Theories; (3) Normal School Students in the Public Schools at Ottawa; (4) The Deaf and Dumb Institution; (5) Education in England; (6) National School of Cookery in London; (7) The American Centennial and Education .....	101
III. COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.— Report of Proceedings .....	103
IV. PAPERS ON PRACTICAL EDUCATION.—(1) Necessity for a Teacher's Higher Literary Culture; (2) Tact in Teaching; (3) Claims of Little Children; (4) Manners in the Public Schools; (5) Incentives to Good Reading and Correct Spelling .....	105
V. MONTHLY REPORT ON THE METEOROLOGY OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO .....	108
VI. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—Sir William E. Logan, F.R.C.S., F.R.S.; Mr. George Dorrner; Death of Chiefs of the Six Nations .....	109
VII. MISCELLANEOUS.—(1) "He Found None"; (2) Laughing Children; (3) Court-tesies to Parents; (4) The Songs of Birds; (5) Enemies to the Potatoe Bug; (6) The Lovell Venture; (7) Ontario Teachers' Association .....	109
VIII. DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES .....	112
IX. ADVERTISEMENT .....	112

## COMPETITIVE SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

This time last year we called attention to the growing desire of several Public School Inspectors to institute competitive examinations among the Schools of their Townships. Such an examination of a very successful character was recently held in some of the Townships of East Durham. Thus we learn that:

"Mr. Tilley, the energetic Public School Inspector of East Durham, has been highly successful in organizing a scheme of competitive examination among the schools of some of his townships, and in establishing a teachers' professional library in connection with the Teachers' Association. The Council of Cavan seem fully alive to the importance of the work being done by the Educational Association, and not only gave \$10 towards the prizes, but also \$20 towards establishing a teacher's professional library. The Council of Manvers also granted a like sum for the latter purpose. Would that we could say as much for the Hope Council."

The subject has recently been under the consideration of the Perth Teachers' Association, and we have much pleasure in inserting the following extract from its proceedings on the subject:—

"The committee appointed to wait on members of the county council, to obtain a grant of money for holding competitive township examinations reported favourably, and the president stated that he found the council anxious to do anything that could aid in advancing the cause of education in the county of Perth. It was resolved that a cordial vote of thanks be given to the county council through the warden, for their liberality in making the required grant, and that the secretary forward a copy of this resolution to the warden. The report of committee on regulations, for holding township competitive examinations was read. After a full and thorough discussion of the various clauses of the report, the following regulations were finally adopted:

1. That the first examination be held on Wednesday, the first day of December, 1875, and subsequent day if required.
2. That the Inspector be requested to appoint the places where such examinations shall be conducted in the different municipalities.
3. That pupils be examined for entrance to classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and for special prizes in class 6.

"4. That no pupil over 11 years of age be permitted to compete for a prize for entrance to class 3; over 13 to class 4; over 15 to class 5; and no pupil who has previously been admitted to any class, be allowed to pass the entrance examination to that class; also that pupils who have obtained certificates as teachers, and still attend public schools, be not allowed to compete in any class, but that pupils who have passed an entrance examination to a high school, held within one month of the time of such uniform competitive examination, be allowed to compete for prizes as though no such high school examination had been held: that none but pupils residing in the county be permitted to compete, and that in order to preserve uniformity of attendance, pupils in union schools attend the examination conducted in the municipality in which the school house is situated, unless in case of unions with other counties, in which case the part of the pupils residing within the county will be allowed to compete in the municipality in which they reside.

"5. That pupils for admission to class 3, be examined in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic and grammar; class 4, in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, spelling, geography and composition; class 5, reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, composition and geography; class 6, reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, national philosophy, grammar, geometry, physiology, composition, history, algebra and mensuration: that German be one of the subjects of examination in schools where that subject is taught in all classes, and that class six be examined in the same subjects as for entrance to that class.

"6. That the Inspector be requested to appoint gentlemen to preside at the examinations in the different municipalities, but no teacher shall be allowed to fill such position in his municipality, that none but public school officials shall preside at any of the examinations, and that in no case shall there be less than two such officers at each place of examination.

"7. That the Inspector be appointed to prepare the questions, get them printed, and keep them in his possession till the day of examination, taking special care that no teacher or pupil get any hint of the questions before the day of examination.

"8. That the following persons be appointed a committee to examine the papers: Messrs. Alexander, Moir, Moran, Nethercott, Rothwell, McLurge, Hamilton, Hislop, Jamieson, Fullarton, Roberts, Steele, McKay, John A. Cairnes, Anderson, and A. S. McGregor; and that no teacher be allowed to examine the papers of any pupil residing in his own section or municipality.

"9. That there be two prizes, a first and second for each subject in each of the classes examined, except in the case of the sixth, for which only three prizes will be given, a first, second and third, for general proficiency in all the subjects enumerated for entrance to class 6.

"The names of the committee on regulations for holding competitive Township examinations are Messrs. Alexander, Donaldson, Moran, McGregor and Steele, who will be pleased to give any information on the subject which teaches or others may desire."

In our former remarks on this subject, we observed that a competitive examination affords an admirable opportunity of testing a pupil's proficiency in elementary subjects. The only question which remains is as to how this test can be most effectively applied.

Two plans have been followed. The first is to hold a primary examination in the elementary branch in each school, and, allow those only who have been successful in this primary examination to take part in the general township examination. The second plan is to hold a general examination of all the pupils of a township, and award prizes to the successful competitors irrespective of the particular school from which they may have come. We have no hesitation in saying that the first plan is by far the best and most effectual.