

## New Brunswick Journal of Education.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 23, 1886.

## THE SCHOOLS OF SAINT JOHN AND PORTLAND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

The following, concerning the schools of Saint John and Portland twenty five years ago, clipped from the *Globe's* anniversary number, will be read with interest:

"Previous to the passage of the present school law, the public schools were given aid from the Provincial treasury, but there was no local tax for their support. The Board of Education was constituted as at present. Dr. John Bennett being then superintendent. On the change in the system, when Mr. T. H. Rand became chief superintendent, Dr. Bennett removed to St. John, and here was appointed city superintendent of schools, which position he held until prostrated by serious illness in 1831, from which he still suffers. Dr. Bennett is now a resident of Dalhousie. The trustees of the city schools then were John Sears, Geo. Blatch and M. H. Peters, Esquires. Under the system then prevailing aid was given to denominational schools, and Rev. James Quinn, James Gallagher and William Carvill were commissioners for the management of the free schools in St. John, not in connection with the Madras board. There is no body now corresponding to the one here named.

The public grammar school board in the City of St. John in 1861 were: Reverend, the Rector of Trinity Church, president; His Worship the Mayor, His Honor the Recorder, Hon. Judge Parker, William Wright, Esq., Hon. John H. Gray, Rev. Wm. Donald, Rev. Wm. Scovil, Wm. Livingstone, Esq., M. D.; clerk, Mr. H. W. Frith; masters, James Patterson, LL. D., senior classical master; Mr. Jas. Hutchison, junior classical master; Mr. Edward Manning, English department. In 1861 there were in the City of St. John 36 public and 16 private schools, but only one public school building, as appears by the Report of the Board of Education for that year, the public school teachers paying an aggregate of \$3,310 for the rent of premises in which the schools were carried on.

In 1860—winter term—schools 37, teachers licensed 34, unlicensed 4, pupils enrolled 1,484. Summer term—schools 37, teachers licensed 35, unlicensed 2, pupils enrolled 1,553.

(At the present time there are about 4,500 children attending the public schools in St. John, accommodated in 84 departments, housed in 13 buildings, 12 of which are devoted to education exclusively. There are 81 teachers in the regular service, and 8 or 10 who are occasionally called in as supplies, since 1872 the trustees have spent about \$342,000 for lands and buildings alone.)

Portland—The trustees of Portland in 1861 were Wm. A. Moore and Stephen W. Shaw. At that time there were about 19 schools in operation. Of the teachers engaged at that time, Mr. John Brooks is the only one who is teaching now in Portland.

(There are at present 41 schools, 41 teachers, one assistant teacher, and 2,400 pupils on the roll.)

EXAMINATIONS for license at the Normal School came to an end on the 24th inst. Nearly one-half of the students in attendance were classified third.

THE examinations of the schools of St. John and Portland were held on the 16th, 16th and 17th insts. A very satisfactory term's work has been done, and the attendance has been good.

TEACHERS seem to be in better demand than for some time past. Salaries also have an upward tendency.

## RETURN SHEETS, ETC.

It would always be well for teachers to apply to the Secretary of the School Board for return sheets and registers before sending away for them. Often in this way they have to be sent twice. It would also be well for the secretary to have a care that they are not mislaid after receipt. Districts changing their secretary should inform the Inspector of the changes, especially if any school supplies are required, in order that they may reach their proper destination.

Assessment blanks are no longer supplied by the Board of Education. They can very readily be made after the form supplied in the school manual.

School manuals are supplied directly from the education office, not by the Inspectors. Districts entitled to special aid as Poor Districts are notified of the fact.

## JOURNALISTIC PROGRESS.

We have received a copy of the *Evening Standard*, an eight-page daily, published in St. John. It is ably edited and fully up to the times in news matter. We heartily wish it success.

The anniversary number of the *St. John Globe* is a splendid specimen of journalism, and will be read and preserved by hundreds. It is very interesting to read clustered around a *fac simile* of a *Globe* issued twenty-five years ago an account of the progress we have since been making. The *Globe* has long been one of the most familiar institutions of St. John, and we heartily congratulate it on its progress.

Not behind the times, the *St. John Telegraph* has been greatly enlarged. This, added to its new dress of type, makes it one of the finest appearing newspapers in Canada.

## NONSENSE.

If teachers and text-book makers will keep on propounding puzzles and senseless questions they must expect the condemnation of all practical people. We have had occasion several times to publish samples of what we find, and here are two more of the same sort. We withhold the author's name, as somebody might accuse us of personal animosity.

The distance between two towns is such that it takes a coach  $p$  hours, going at the rate of  $a$  miles an hour, to do the distance; and walking  $b$  miles an hour, it will take me  $q$  hours. How long must I start before the coach that, by getting on it when it overtakes me I may get over the distance between the towns in half the time it would have taken me to walk it?

Suppose a dog, a wolf, and a lion were to devour a sheep. The dog could eat up a sheep in an hour, the wolf in  $\frac{2}{3}$  of an hour, and the lion in half an hour. Now, if the lion begin to eat  $\frac{1}{3}$  of an hour before the other two, and afterwards all three eat together, find in what time the sheep will be devoured?

What is the use of such nonsense? Somebody says, "mental discipline." Well, granted, but far better mind exercises could be gotten from questions that have some immediate bearing on the world as we meet it. We live in a real world, not in a suppositional one, in which a dog, a wolf, and a lion meet in friendly compact over the carcass of a poor sheep. There are thousands of pupils today puzzling their poor befuddled brains over just such impossible questions as the above, who will graduate knowing absolutely nothing about a steam engine, or a magnetic telegraph, or a telephone, or the electric light, or the composition of the water they drink, the air they breathe, and the soil they tread upon. They will wade through the intricacies of compound, restrictive, relative clauses, and recite long lists of names and dates in English, French, and American history, all for the

purpose of "mental development," and that the "mind may be stored with useful knowledge." Away with such philosophy! It is unutterable foolishness! Life is real, not unreal. We live and move and have our being in the midst of ten thousand mind-awakening phenomena. So long as teachers will be content to feed their pupils with the husks of knowledge from which all juice and meat has been extracted, just so long must they content themselves with the fare of the prodigal son before he came to his senses.—*Teachers' Institute.*

## PERSONAL.

Miss Bessie Narraway, A. B., who taught so acceptably as supply for a short time both in the Normal school and Victoria has been appointed principal of the Methodist Academy at St. Johns, Newfoundland. It is to be regretted that Miss Narraway's services could not have been retained in this Province.

Mr. Geo. R. Parkin, A. M., has been lecturing in Fredericton and Sussex.

Mr. J. M. McLeod, A. B., principal of the Campbellton schools, has given up teaching to follow the study of the law.

We are pleased to learn that Miss Addie Hanson who has been unable to teach for some time owing to illness, is again able to resume her duties.

Miss S. E. Whipple, associate principal of the Albert Building, Carleton, was married on Tuesday, 14th inst., the fortunate man being Mr. Thos. W. Street, of Boston, Mass. We extend our heartiest congratulations.

The following changes have taken place in the staff of teachers of St. John: Miss Ida Rutherford, of the Victoria annex, Sister Redeemptor of Patrick's Hall, Carleton, and Sister Benedict of St. Joseph's, retire.

Miss Mary Seely has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Miss Rutherford's retirement and Sister Clementine and Sister Mary Joseph are to fill the places of Sisters Benedict and Redeemptor.

Mr. H. V. Hayes, who has had charge of the Hampton schools, has been appointed to the principalship of the Millford departments in the place of Mr. John E. Dean, resigned.

Miss Agnes E. Livingston, Associate in Arts of McGill College and the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, formerly engaged on the Portland teaching staff, has been appointed to the position vacated by Miss Whipple's retirement. We congratulate Miss Livingston and feel sure she will justify the high expectations formed of her.

Miss Clara E. Williams has been appointed to the vacancy on the Portland staff of teachers caused by the retirement of Miss Livingstone.

Professor Fraser, principal of the school for the blind at Halifax, was in town Saturday on his return from Fredericton. This school, which serves the interests of all the Maritime Provinces, is an admirably conducted institution. Hitherto Nova Scotia school funds have contributed rather more than their proportionate share to the maintenance of this school, and Mr. Fraser's interview with the government was conducted with this feature of the business. Professor Fraser is an editor as well as a teacher. *The Critic*, which he owns and manages, is an enterprising weekly.

## ERRORS IN SANGSTER.

*Editor Journal.*—In List of Errors found in Sangster's National Arithmetic, as published in *Journal*, the answer to question 8, exercise 28, and to question 110, exercise 165, are correct as found in book, and were sent in by mistake. Answer 28 in exercise 165 was not printed correctly in *Journal*. It should be, 'for \$3640.5033 read \$3640.7432 +.'

Yours truly,  
JOHN E. DEAN.

Dec. 10th.