

THE

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

CHANGE IN PRICE OF BOOKS, &c.

THE attention of Trustees is called to the official notice respecting the supply of Books and Apparatus. By order of the Council of Public Instruction, the amount contributed by Government towards the purchase of all articles other than Maps, Globes and Diagrams, is now reduced to one-fourth of the cost.

The late changes in the Customs Tariff materially affect the cost of imported books and various other articles supplied by the agency. In revising the price list the difference of duty has been taken into account.

Poor Sections are still supplied at half-cost. Each Inspector is requested to furnish a complete list of such Sections in his County, and to renew the list after the annual revision in May of each year.

It is to be hoped that Trustees ordering Books, &c., will pay attention to these changes, otherwise difficulty and delay will result.

THE RECENT EXAMINATION.

AT the recent examination of candidates for license to teach in the public schools, 514 persons presented themselves for examination. Of this number 505 attended throughout the required period; of the remaining 9 some were dismissed for infringement of rules, and the rest retired in consequence of illness. The number of candidates in each Grade was as follows:—

Grade A.....	1
“ B.....	78
“ C.....	210
“ D.....	178
“ E.....	38
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The number of licenses of each Grade obtained was as follows:

Grade A.....	0
“ B.....	31
“ C.....	76
“ D.....	107
“ E.....	78
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	292

A few details relative to the performances of the candidates may be of interest. The following statements will give a good idea of the average standing attained. It will be remembered that the highest possible mark in any subject is 100:—

No. whose average is 70 or upwards.....	17
“ “ between 60 and 70.....	52
“ “ “ 50 “ 60.....	112
“ “ “ 40 “ 50.....	139
“ “ “ 30 “ 40.....	117
“ “ below 30.....	68
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Each of the following candidates reached an average of over 75:

GRADE B. (19 Branches.) Average.	
Alexander H. McKay, Pictou.....	80.63
Alexander McKay, Kentville.....	79.05
Maurice Calnek, Granville Ferry, Annap.....	78.74
Archibald McKinnon, Bridgetown.....	75.39
GRADE C. (14 Branches.)	
John J. Richards, West River, Pictou....	79.00
GRADE D. (11 Branches.)	
Elizabeth Stanford, Halifax.....	78.86
Maude Johnson, Pictou.....	78.09
Mary Russell, Truro.....	76.23

The regulation in reference to Spelling is producing very satisfactory results. The proportion receiving an addition to the average by reason of good spelling at the last examination, was much larger than at either of the preceding examinations. The follow-

ing statement will indicate the general proficiency of the candidates in this respect:—

Number having no word marked by Examiners..	80
“ only one word “ “ ..	104
“ two words “ “ ..	67
“ three “ “ “ ..	54
“ four “ “ “ ..	36
“ five “ “ “ ..	26
“ less than 6 errors.....	367
“ six errors, or upwards.....	138

It will thus be seen that 16 per cent. of the candidates examined have no error in spelling; 36 per cent. have not more than one error marked against them; and 367, or nearly three out of every four, received an addition to their average by reason of good spelling. Five applicants for License of the First Class failed to pass by reason of bad spelling. Nineteen candidates who obtained license would have failed to do so had it not been for the addition made to the average on account of good spelling.

We purpose giving in the next number a more complete analysis of the late examination; together with specimens of work done in various branches by some of the candidates.

SECRETARY TO TRUSTEES.

ONE or two instances have come to our knowledge in which the recent annual meeting had to be adjourned “because the Secretary to Trustees was not present with the necessary statement of the financial affairs of the section.” In these cases the rate-payers were, naturally enough, somewhat incensed at the disappointment and loss of time to which they had been subjected. We learn that the whole blame was thrown on the absent Secretary, and that the Trustees joined in denouncing him for neglect of duty.

It may be well, as a rule, that the accounts should be presented and explained by the Secretary. He is likely to have the best knowledge of them. But it is to be remarked that the responsibility belongs to the Trustees themselves. It is no part of the Secretary's duty, as defined by the law, to attend the annual meeting, much less to present the meeting with a statement of accounts. This duty the law distinctly assigns, in the first instance at least, to the Trustees. Section 38 (9) reads: It shall be the duty of the Trustees “To present an annual report on the state of the school or schools, and of the doings of the Board, at the regular school meeting in October.”

This duty they may, perhaps, assign to their Secretary under Section 44 (6) where the Secretary is required “generally, to transact any business of the Board, as directed by a majority of the Trustees.” But without such direction there is certainly nothing binding the Secretary to act in the matter. And even after the direction is given, the Trustees are still responsible to see that the thing is done, and correctly done. It is to the Trustees that the meeting must look. The report, whoever presents it, should come before the Board of Trustees, and be fully examined and approved by them before it is laid before the rate-payers. For though the duty of presenting it may be assigned to, or voluntarily undertaken by the Secretary, yet the document is none the less the report of the Trustees.

In one of the cases to which we referred at the outset, the annual meeting, on motion of one of the Trustees, voted to dismiss the Secretary to Trustees, and fine him for neglect of duty. This, we need hardly say, is beyond the power of the meeting. The rate-payers have no direct control over him. He is the officer of the Trustees; by them he is appointed, and to them he is responsible in the discharge of his duties. If he neglects his duty, or