

Frost, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 29th. Wind-storms, 3rd, 9th, 11th, 27th. Snow, 2nd, 3rd. Rain, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 30th.

HAMILTON.—17th and 18th, the leaves of many trees : maples, horse-chestnuts, apples, plums, cherries, &c., and of many shrubs have come out during this week. 19th, may flies very numerous. 9th and 10th, lightning. 3rd and 27th, lightning and thunder with hail or rain. 15th, Corona 30" in diameter around the moon. Frost, 5th. Wind-storms, 9th, 11th, 27th. Rain, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 11th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 30th. The observer gives a detailed list of the dates of blossoming of the various plants and flowers during the month.

SIMCOE.—On 3rd, lightning with rain. 9th, lightning with thunder; an auroral arc spanning the heavens from N. W. to S. E. about 3" broad, and in the Zenith, was observed, commencing about 10 p.m. 27th, lightning and thunder with rain. Frost, 6th, 7th, 28th, 29th. Wind-storms, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 11th. Rain, 1st—4th, 11th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 30th. Extremely hot weather during month. The greatest heat and the greatest cold on same day, 6th.

Windsor.—On 2nd, hail. 8th, meteor in S. towards S.W. 9th, lightning-lunar halo, 11th, 14th, 16th, lightning and thunder with rain, 21st, 26th, 29th. Frost, 4th, 5th, 13th, 14th. Wind-storms, 3rd, 9th, 11th, 19th, 26th. Rain, 1st, 3rd, 11th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th.

### IX. Departmental Notices.

#### ASSISTANTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS A NECESSITY.

Trustees of High Schools will bear in mind that they are required to employ an Assistant Master, in order to give effect to the new programme. The qualifications of these assistants are, that they shall either hold a Public School Teacher's certificate, or at least be certified as an undergraduate in the faculty of Arts, of good standing in some university in Her Majesty's dominions.

The Trustees of each High School, now being established, are required, and consent to employ *two* masters in their School, whatever may be the number of pupils in attendance. In justice to these new Schools, and in order to carry out the prescribed programme of studies in High Schools, this rule will, at the close of the current six months, be applied to all the High Schools in Ontario. When the application of the new principle of "payment by results" (authorized by the Act of last year), will come into force, it will necessitate a more thorough and satisfactory system of instruction than at present exists in many of the High Schools.

#### POWER OF THE "RETIRING TRUSTEE."

In reply to many inquiries on this subject, we answer: That by the New School Act the lost power of the "retiring trustee" has been restored. Up to 1850, he had the same power as any other trustee, but in that year it was enacted that he could not lawfully sign an agreement with a teacher, the duration of which would extend beyond his period of service. That clause has now been repealed and the "retiring trustee" has now precisely the same powers in all respects as either of his colleagues.

#### NEW SCHOOL REGISTERS.

In reply to numerous applications for Public School Registers, &c., we desire to say that the new edition (including the modifications in the courses of study required by the new School Act) has been sent out to the County Clerks for distribution through the Inspectors. No copies will be sent out direct to individual schools from the Education Department. Trustees will, therefore apply to the Inspector for them.

#### ASSISTANT TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.

The question is sometimes asked if it be necessary that an assistant teacher should hold a legal certificate. We reply: It is absolutely necessary that he should hold one. The law expressly declares that every person receiving any part of the School Fund as teacher shall hold a legal certificate of qualification. The Superior Courts have also decided that trustees cannot legally levy a rate for the payment of a teacher who does not possess the necessary qualifications as such under the School laws.

### SCHOOL PREMISES AND ACCOMMODATION.

We would request the attention of Inspectors to Note to a of Regulation No. 4 of their "Duties," in which they are directed to call the attention of Trustees to the condition of the School premises. In many School sections the School-house has been allowed to remain in the same state for fifteen or twenty years and longer, often on a bare open space, or on the road-side unenclosed, without a tree or shrub near by to shade it, or any provision being made by the Trustees for the convenience or health of the pupils, or even for their observance of the decencies of life. The Legislature has wisely decided that this state of things shall not continue, but that, as soon as possible, a remedy shall be applied, where necessary. A reasonable time should of course be allowed to Trustees in all cases to set things right; but in the meantime Inspectors will, we trust, not fail to urge upon Trustees the necessity of complying, as soon as possible, with the provisions of the law on this subject.

#### "OLD COUNTY BOARD" CERTIFICATES.

The question is often asked: "Can the present Board of Examiners recall the old County Board Certificates?" We reply: They cannot recall any of the old County Board Certificates which were given for life, or for a term of years. They can, however, at the proper time, recall those which were given for an indefinite time, or during the pleasure of the Board; that is those which on the face of them clearly show that they were given subject to such recall. The Department has in all cases requested the Board of Examiners *not* to recall these latter certificates *this year*, nor until the supply of teachers is more equal to the demands of the schools than at present.

#### SCHOOL HOUSE ARCHITECTURE.

In the *Journal of Education* for February, 1870, Trustees will find a variety of illustrations on School House Architecture, with letter-press descriptions. Extra copies of this journal will be sent free by post, on receipt of 12 cents. There has also been published a useful pamphlet on "The School House, its Architecture," etc., with numerous illustrations, which can also be sent free by post on receipt of 65 cents.

#### AUTHORIZED TEXT BOOKS.

The lists of the authorized Text Books for High and Public Schools, so far as completed by the Council of Public Instruction, is published in the *Journal of Education* for October, and on a separate sheet. Inspectors, Trustees and Teachers will please see that these books are used in the schools.

#### PRINTED SHEETS FOR SCHOOLS.

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|---|-----------------|---|
| 1. The New Programme.....                 | } Large Sheets. | } The ten sheets sent free of postage for 50 cents. |
| 2. The New Limit Table .....              |                 |   |
| 3. A Blank Time Table.....                |                 |   |
| 4. Duties of Pupils.....                  |                 |   |
| 5. The Ten Commandments .....             |                 |   |
| 6. Library Regulations .....              |                 |   |
| 7. List of authorized Text Books.....     | } Small Sheets. |   |
| 8. Merit Cards and their uses.....        |                 |   |
| 9. Hints on constructing Time Tables..... |                 |   |
| 10. Departmental Notices.....             |                 |   |

IN THE PRESS.

## THE ONTARIO SCHOOL LAW,

Relating to County Councils—Township Councils—City, Town and Village Councils—Township Boards—Union School Sections—Arbitrations in regard to School Sites—County, City and Town Public School Inspections, Boards of Examiners, &c., &c., being Part II. of School Law Lectures. By J. GEORGE HODGINS, LL.D., Barrister-at-Law. Price 75 cts.; by Mail, 80 cts.

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