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The Canada School Journal

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TO ADVERTISERS.

The SCHOOL JOURNAL is now the best medium in the Dominion of Canada for reaching Teachers and Trustees. As a proof of the rapid increase of its circulation ~~37~~ 1100 NEW SUBSCRIBERS were received from Nova Scotia in January, and 550 FROM NEW BRUNSWICK in February.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE SCHOOLS.

No one who pays the slightest attention to the progress of education in England can fail to be struck with the recently increased utility of the great English Universities as educational institutions. Oxford and Cambridge, after going on in the same groove for generations, if not centuries, suddenly sprang a few years ago into new life, and have ever since been to all appearance competing with each other in the race for such popularity as may be won by persistent efforts to come more and more in contact with the masses. The institution of local examinations, by passing which candidates can obtain a very important educational status and certificate, was a great step in advance, and fortunately it has proved an extraordinary success. The recognition of local colleges in such towns as chose to establish them was another move in the right direction. And now we have it stated that the University of Cambridge has agreed to conduct the examination of female teachers, who are trained for secondary schools by a voluntary educational association, with the prospect of Oxford joining in the work.

There is in all this an important lesson for our Canadian Universities. The old idea that these institutions, which in all countries form the apex of the educational pyramid, are to remain inert and be reached only by the few who can manage to climb high enough to get within the sphere of their influence, has been thoroughly explored and abandoned. Henceforth they must do something more for the people who sustain them than merely educate those who are prepared to pass regularly from matriculation to graduation. They must be prepared to lend a helping hand to the educational toilers below, to widen the sphere of their influence, and take cognizance of a class of educational work not intended to prepare candidates for degrees at all. Such at least is the University theory now acted upon by both Oxford and Cambridge, and it is simply inconceivable that in Canada, where we are accustomed to boast of our progressiveness as compared with the old land, we shall lag long behind. Our Universities must throw themselves in

to the work of popular education, and the sooner the better, both for the cause of popular education and for themselves.

The University of Toronto has set the example in Canada of establishing local examinations for girls. It is not unlikely that others may follow in the same line, and as the Provincial University seems indisposed to go any further at present, it is highly desirable that they should do so. There is ample room for all who choose to take part in the work, though the State-endowed University enjoys some facilities for undertaking the task which others do not possess. It is to be regretted that the Senate of that institution is so averse to improved methods of working, and has such a dread of popularizing its function. Why, for instance, should the privilege of going up for these local examinations be confined to one sex? There are hundreds of boys in attendance at High Schools who are by their circumstances precluded from ever completing a University course, but that is no reason for refusing to allow them to go as far as they can. The degree of Associate in Arts, conferred by Cambridge and Oxford, would be a real distinction to all who could win it in the University of Toronto, and for those who intend to make teaching their life-work it would have as real, though of course not as great, a money value as the degree of Bachelor or Master of Arts. It would in Ontario be practically equivalent to the literary and scientific requirements for a first class Public School certificate, and might entitle the holder to qualify as a High School assistant. Even to those who never intend to teach, the examinations could not but prove beneficial. They would supply a standard to be aimed at in High Schools and Seminaries, and boys as well as girls, who could not hope to complete the larger University course, could work for the certificate showing that they have taken the narrower one.

To the University itself such an expansion of its sphere could not fail to prove beneficial. Boys who if left to themselves would never have thought of taking a full course, would frequently be prompted to do so by awakened ambition. The candidates for the University examinations have increased rapidly in number since the institution of the intermediate examination, and the consequent assimilation of the High School programme to the University curriculum. The extension of the system of local examinations, in the way above indicated, would cause them to increase still more rapidly, and prove the best means the University could use of drawing the youth of the country within its influence.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMNS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

There is no clearer proof that the interest in educational matters is spreading among the masses throughout America, than the fact that so many newspapers have "Educational Departments" in their columns. It is safe to say that their