

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

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PROGRESS OF THE ARRANGEMENT FOR PROCURING BOOKS FOR LIBRARIES, &c.—As some anxiety is felt by many persons for the early establishment of school libraries in several parts of the province, we are happy to be able to state that the arrangements now being made by the Chief Superintendent of Schools in Europe, for a continuous supply of cheap and excellent books, are very nearly completed; and that, as soon as practicable, the necessary directions and information on the subject will be furnished through the *Journal of Education*.

From recent letters received from the Rev. Dr. RYERSON, in London, we select the following extracts relating to the objects of his mission :—

"I have nearly succeeded in completing the arrangements with Her Majesty's Privy Council Committee on Education to obtain books, maps, &c., for Canada, upon the same terms as those upon which the committee have arranged with the publishers to supply the schools aided by the parliamentary grant. To effect this arrangement the Secretary of the Privy Council Committee has had to write to every publisher, from whose list of books selections are made, to obtain his consent. All the publishers have given their consent, and the formalities of the arrangement will be completed very shortly—after which I intend to visit the educational institutions of Ireland and Scotland.

"I send you the printed paper containing the list of books, maps, &c., recommended by the Privy Council Committee, with the prices annexed, at which I can obtain them—also the printed forms of my future orders for them, with the conditions imposed by the committee in fulfilling them.

"From the list transmitted, you will see that the most valuable part of the books mentioned are published in Dublin and Edinburgh. The list embraces all the maps, as well as the best school books, &c., that are published in England and Scotland—including those of the Irish National Board. I intend to bring with me a copy of each of the publications in this list as specimens for the Department.

"I think that on my way home I shall have to select books from the lists furnished by the American publishers [application in writing having failed to accomplish the specific objects desired by the Chief Superintendent in the selection of specimens of suitable books for the libraries;] and arrange with them individually as to terms, &c., the same as I have done in London.

"Upon my return I will try and prepare for the *Journal of Education* a series of articles on the system of public instruction in France—for which I have procured ample materials in Paris. I hope to turn my present visit greatly to account in promoting education and general knowledge in Canada.

"I am more and more impressed with the immense facilities we possess in Upper Canada, and with the vastness of the field, together with what may be accomplished by prudence and exertion. The more I see of other countries, the more I love and confide in my own."

EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENTS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.—The free school law is now undergoing a warm discussion in the New York Legislature. An effort is being made to make the schools free, by raising a general state tax of \$800,000, which, with the school fund of \$300,000, would make one million one hundred thousand dollars available for teachers' salaries throughout the state!

The school committee of the assembly have reported two school bills—one by Mr. Benedict, embodying the views of the majority of the committee, and one by Mr. Burroughs, representing the opinions of the minority. The following is the synopsis of each :—

Majority Bill.—1. The common schools of the state shall be free, &c.

2. Proposes to raise \$800,000 by a state tax. Distributes one-fourth of money raised by such tax, and one fourth of all other moneys (including \$300,000, to be received from school fund),

appropriated for school purposes, *equally* among all the districts of the state.

3. The remaining three-fourths to be distributed rateably, according to the number of children between the ages of 5 and 16 years. No district to receive any portion of the above funds unless a school has been kept open in such district for eight months, by a duly qualified teacher.

4. The balance, if any be required for the payment of teachers' wages, is to be raised by a poll tax of such an amount as will make up such balance, to be levied by the trustees of the district upon each resident of the district, entitled to vote at the school district meetings.

5. Proposes that all laws inconsistent with this Act be repealed.

6. The poll tax will vary from 30 to 90 cents, only, as estimated by the majority of the committee.

Minority Bill.—1st. A state tax of \$300,000.

2nd. That this money shall be distributed to the districts in accordance with the number of children; one-fourth, however, to be paid to districts, irrespective of population.

3rd. Appropriates \$24 to each part of a district.

4th. That the first appropriations go to the school districts which had made their returns in 1849—which were in a sound condition at that time.

5th. Any balance of money which may be required, shall be raised by rate bills,—the trustees to exempt indigent persons.

6th. Restores all the former power exercised by the State Superintendent.

7th. Provides that all moneys to be expended under this law shall go to pay teachers' wages.

We hope to be able in the next number of the *Journal* to give some of the valuable report of the committee, upon presenting the foregoing bills. Part of the Superintendent's Report, and Governor HUNT's message for 1850-1, will be found on page 46.

A state convention of the friends of free schools was held at Utica on the 26th ult. The resolutions adopted endorsed the principle that the property of the state should educate the children of the state; protested against the abandonment of the free school principle because the assessment laws are defective; approved of the tax and mode of distribution proposed by the Assembly; of keeping the schools open eight months in the year, and of raising what might be required for teachers' wages in a district in the same manner as its contingent expenses.

MISAPPLICATION OF THE SCHOOL FUND ON THE PART OF TRUSTEES.—A local superintendent writes: "In my intercourse with school sections in my own and neighbouring townships, I have discovered that trustees have been in the habit of entering into collusion with their teacher to obtain a part of the school fund. The trustees give the teacher an order for the amount due their section, when at the same time the teacher only claims a part of it, consequently the surplus comes into the hands of the trustees. I detected this in one instance in time to prevent it, and retained the overplus in the treasurer's hands until the teacher had earned it; but in another instance I paid the teacher the amount of his order before I discovered the dishonesty of the trustees to get between £6 and £7 of a fund, to which they had no right, into their hands. Perhaps it might be well to give the necessary instructions through the *Journal of Education*, in order that myself and brother superintendents may know how to act."

REMARKS: We beg to thank our Rev. correspondent for directing our attention to this design on the part of trustees to contravene the express provisions of the 40th and 45th sections of the School Act—which were intended to prevent the application of the school fund to any other purpose than the payment of teachers' salaries.

Whenever local superintendents detect any collusion, such as is referred to above, before the money is paid, we would advise them to act as our correspondent has done: if, however, the money be paid before the fraud be discovered, the local superintendent might apply to the Chief Superintendent for authority to retain a sum equal to the overplus paid to a teacher out of the next payment to the school section