

**BELLEVILLE.**—On 3rd, brilliant Aurora, Class I., between 8 and 11 p.m., at times the whole sky illuminated with surpassing splendor, streamers in tremulous motion. 8th, from 8 p.m. till after midnight, a similar display. Lightning and thunder with rain, 2nd. Thunder, 21st. Wind-storm, 30th. Rain, 2nd, 10th, 13th, 27th, 29th, 30th, 31st. Very high temperature during month, except last two days. Barometer steady. Exceedingly dry.

**GODERICH.**—Lightning, 6th. Lightning and thunder with rain, 1st, 5th, 9th, 29, 30th. Rain, 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, 26th, 29th. Very heavy storm of wind and rain arose in the afternoon of the 29th, from the N. W., continuing with more or less violence all night, and next day and night. During both nights wind rose to a gale. Lake very rough, and steamers in port did not leave as usual on Thursday evening or Friday. Barometer remarkably steady all month.

**STRATFORD.**—Lightning, 1st, 9th, 29th. Thunder, 1st, 26th. Lightning and thunder with rain, 5th. Wind-storms, 5th, 30th, 31st. Fog, 19th. Rain, 1st, 5th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 18th, 24th. Excess of mean monthly temperature over average of 11 years, +3° 69.

**HAMILTON.**—Lightning, 5th, 9th, 10th, 18th, 21st, 29th. Thunder with rain, 7th. Lightning and thunder with rain, 1st, 2nd, 20th. Wind-storm in night between 9th—10th. Rain, 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th. During the night between 9th and 10th, the minimum thermometer did not fall below 76° F., and during the night 21st—22nd the lowest point was over 77°.

**SIMCOE.**—Lightning and thunder with rain, 13th. On 25th, 7.30 to 8 p.m., a luminous band across zenith, from N. W. to S. E. horizon. Wind-storms, 9th, 28th, 29th. Fogs, 19th, 20th. Rain, 3rd, 6th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st. Heat of the month very great, and although only eight rainy days, the quantity precipitated was prodigious.

**WINDSOR.**—Lightning, 5th, 13th. Lightning with thunder, 9th. Thunder with rain, 20th. Lightning and thunder with rain, 10th. Wind-storms, 10th, 29th, 30th. Fogs, 1st, 14th, 16th, 19th. Rain, 2nd, 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 26th. On 4th, two meteors through sq. of Pegasus towards S. 5th, meteor in S.E. towards S., and 7th, S.E. towards H. 25th, Meteor from Northern Crown to H. Lunar halos, 12th, 13th, 14th.

## II. Departmental Notices.

### ADEQUATE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

CIRCULAR TO THE INSPECTORS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

GENTLEMEN,—It having been decided by the Government, that the Regulations adopted by the Council of Public Instruction, in regard to adequate accommodations of School-houses, were to be considered recommendatory for the current year, as had been previously intimated in the *Journal of Education* for February last, a correspondence has taken place between the Hon. Attorney General and myself as to my duty and authority in enforcing the Second Section of the School Act of 1871, which enacts that "each School Corporation shall provide adequate accommodation for all children of School age in their School Division or Municipality."

The final opinion of the Attorney General on the subject is as follows:

(Copy.) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,  
Toronto, 23rd October, 1872.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and collect from it that you now require my opinion on two questions:—

One—Whether you are to enforce the Second Section of the School Act of 1871 at all, in regard to the School Corporations providing any adequate School-house accommodation for children entitled by law to attend the Public Schools, when wilful and notorious delinquencies are reported to you by County Inspectors of Public Schools. My opinion on this question is in the affirmative, and that it is clearly your duty to enforce the requirements of the Act referred to.

On the second question, as to whether you are precluded from regarding dimensions of a School-house as any element in adequate accommodations for a given number of children, under the Second Section of the School Act, my opinion is that you are not precluded from regarding dimensions as an element, and that the effect of the Order in Council only renders the prescribed dimensions of the Regulations of the Council of Public Instruction recommendatory.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) ADAM CROOKS.

To Rev. E. RYERSON, D.D.,

Chief Superintendent of Education, &c., &c., &c.

It will thus be seen, by the opinion of the Hon. the Attorney General, that it is my duty to enforce the Second Section of the School Act of 1871, and that in doing so I am to take into consideration the dimensions of the School-houses for a given number of children.

It is my opinion that the dimensions of School-houses for a given number of children, as recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, being much less than the dimensions required by law in England, Nova Scotia, and the State of New York (as stated in my Report for last year), are the least that should be required in this Province; and I, therefore, desire that you will so decide, and report accordingly.

It is to be observed that it is not in regard to the style of the School-houses, whether elegant or plain, whether log, frame, brick or stone School-houses; nor in cases where the people are really too poor to build or enlarge a School-house; but it is where the assessed property and circumstances of the people in a School Section shew that they are able to comply with the requirements of the Act, and the trustees of such Section refuse to do so, that you are to enforce it, for the protection and benefit of the children, who by the same law are entitled to attend the School, so that they shall not be excluded from it for want of room, or be packed in it like cattle in a railroad car, or be deprived of the requisite seats to sit on, or the requisite desks on which to write, or shiver with the cold, or be rained or snowed upon for want of proper covering and enclosure in the School-house. Adequate accommodations of a School-house, therefore, include, of course, the furniture proper for children to have, and room for study and recitation, as well as protection from cold, snow, and rain, that they may learn,—as adequate accommodations of a dwelling house include the room and furniture needful for the comfort of a family.

The patriotic intentions of the Legislature, whose Act is an embodiment of the will of the Canadian people, must not be contravened by the misguided selfishness of few or many persons in any neighbourhood.

The people at large, through their Representatives in the Legislature, have declared a free school for every child in the land, and that every child shall enjoy that right; and no individual or neighbourhood shall be allowed to counteract the will of the Nation in a matter of declared national interest and importance.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

E. RYERSON.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 24th October, 1872.

### POOR SCHOOLS IN NEW TOWNSHIPS.

The grants to the Poor Schools in New Townships (the applications from which have been received through the Local Superintendent,) will be certified to the Treasury Department for payment to the Treasurers of the Counties concerned. The grant is payable by the Treasurer, on the order of the Inspector, and must be applied solely to the payment of Teachers' Salaries, and not to building or repairing school houses, etc. Grants of old second-hand readers and other text books, can be made to Poor Schools on application to the Department.

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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Toronto, 1872.