

THE

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE attention of teachers is specially directed to the notice of the examination. There will be no other examination till the close of the next term.

THERE are 116 teaching days in the present term. Trustees and teachers may easily verify the above number by perusing the official notice in another column, concerning "Holidays and Vacations."

EVERY board of trustees should be fully prepared to present to the annual school meeting on the 21st of October, a clear and accurate statement of their transactions for the year, and to inform the meeting what funds in their estimation will be sufficient for the meeting to vote, in order to provide adequately for the maintenance of a good school, during the ensuing year. The meeting will properly look to the trustees, to recommend the adoption of whatever is needed for the improvement and efficiency of the means of education employed by the section.

Let every section determine to support a good school, and to do it, not grudgingly, nor of constraint, but cheerfully and with a willing mind.

## THE NEXT ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.

IT is provided by law that the annual school meeting, "shall be held in the school-house of the section, or if not commodious, or if its use cannot be obtained, or if there is none, in any other convenient building, on the THIRD MONDAY IN OCTOBER; the meeting to be called by the trustees, or, where none exist, by the inspector, by notices posted in three public localities within the section, five days previously, signed by the trustees or the inspector, as the case may be." Trustees must on no account fail to give the required notice to the inhabitants of their section. Where sections are without trustees, the people should see that the required notices are procured in time from the Inspector, and properly posted.

Of the three members of the board of trustees existing on the 21st of October next, one of those members who have been the longest in service is to go out of office by ballot, whether the members of the board were elected at a former annual or special meeting, or were appointed by the School Commissioners. The vacancy thus made is to be filled by the election of a trustee. The trustee who retires, may be re-elected if willing to serve, his term of office, to date from such re-election.

One of the most convenient modes of voting by ballot is for each rate payer present to write upon a slip of paper the name of the trustee who he thinks should retire. The chairman having counted the ballots, declares the office of him who receives the largest number to be vacant. A ballot is often taken by the use of objects of two colours, or kinds, as black beans and white beans, beans and peas. It is of no great moment what materials are used, the object being merely to enable the rate-payers, in a delicate way, to determine which trustee shall vacate his office.

Where the three trustees have been in office for the same period, it will be necessary to determine which of the three shall retire. The ballot must in that case be repeated if necessary, till one has received the vote of a majority of the ballots. Any section without a board of trustees, must of course elect three trustees.

The office of trustee is most honorable, and only persons of intelligence, business habits, and educational zeal, should be chosen as trustees. Such men should not shrink from a faithful discharge of the duties imposed upon them by the people. All should remember that society has claims upon them, and that no claim can be stronger than that which involves the welfare of the young. Good trustees will generally secure good teachers, good accommodations, and good schools.

A spirit of liberality should be shown by the rate-payers, in providing for the support of their schools. Ample provision should be made for comfortable and clean rooms, a good supply of school books and necessary apparatus, the teacher's salary, in short for whatever is needed to carry on successfully the great work of education. In this way, the sections will have little difficulty in obtaining the services of the best men, as trustees. Such trustees will carry on the school as economically as is consistent with the best interests of all, and however large the amount voted, they will expend only what is needed.

The rapidity with which the means of education are multiplying in all parts of the Province is full of assurance that a system of FREE SCHOOLS is admirably adapted to meet the educational wants of Nova Scotia.

## ON TEACHING AS A PROFESSION.\*

THE subject which I have chosen for my address to-day is our professional position in the country. This subject has the disadvantage of being commonplace enough, but however commonplace it may be, the matter is of too vital importance to all of us, and to the best interests of society, to be treated at any time with indifference. And especially at the present time, when there is much educational excitement, and educational projects are ventilating on every hand, it cannot be too widely or too thoroughly discussed.

We have to start from the mournful fact, recognised and deplored by all of us, that the teaching profession is not one that of itself gains much respect for its members, and that the attractions which it presents are not very inviting. But if the evil to be deplored were merely that a certain body of men do not mingle in select society, and do not receive the honours due to them from the public, I should not have thought of taking up the subject at all. A remedy of course should be attempted for every evil, but when the evil is one merely inflicted by the world's opinion, it is of comparatively small importance. The world, in the sense in which the term is used, is always small, and its opinion not worth much. Providence has generally supplied ample compensation to those who lose the world's honours in the performance of substantial work. And in the case of the educator, his work and his position rise in estimation in proportion as the person estimating is capable of understanding the value of what is really good and important.

I have a different object altogether. I believe that the elevation of the teaching profession means the spread of sound education. I believe that it is of primary importance to the well-being of the community that the profession should be elevated, and I believe that all the measures which I propose for the elevation of the profession are absolutely essential to the thorough education of the people. The schoolmaster is the school. In the work of education, the man who educates is everything. And I conceive that our people will not be properly educated until the public come not merely to assent to this truth in an indifferent way, but to realise it as a great truth, and to perceive the many applications which it admits of.

Whatever may be the reason why the teaching profession is held so low, it certainly cannot be found in the nature of the work which is accomplished. Let me compare it with what are called the learned professions, medicine, law, theology. In such a comparison, we have to look out for some standard by which we may measure them. Now I think it will be granted that a profession rises in dignity in proportion to the influence which it exerts on the well-being of mankind. By well-being I include the physical as well as the mental or spiritual. Both interact on each other. Physical well-being is calculated to promote spiritual, as it frees a man from many temptations, and gives him power for the work he has to do on earth. And it is not possible to conceive spiritual well-being without its affecting or rather including physical well-being to a large extent. For all those virtues which relate to the appetites and passions, temperance, self-restraint, contentment, and such like, are powerful agents in the creation of physical welfare. Yet, at the same time, I think that it will be allowed there may be differences of dignity in the various operations, that the man who promotes the spiritual well-being is employed in higher work than the man who promotes the physical, essential as that may be. And

\* Address delivered at Stirling to the Scottish Central Schoolmasters' Association. By James Donaldson, LL.D., Rector of the High School.