

## Notes and Comments.

We learn of the death of Mr. Édouard Carrier, Inspector of Schools for the Counties of Levis and Dorchester, Quebec, at the age of 70 years. Mr Carrier has devoted 50 years of his life to the cause of education, and was named School Inspector in 1868.

JOHN WADDELL, of Halifax, has been appointed professor of physics, chemistry and geology, at the Royal military college, Kingston, *vice* Dr. Bayne deceased. There were a number of applicants for the position. Mr. Waddell graduated at Dalhousie college, Halifax, after which he took courses in Scotland, Germany and France, perfecting himself in the special lines which he has adopted.

At a recent meeting of the Halifax board of school commissioners the committee recommended the following resolution for adoption by the board: "Resolved, that in the opinion of this board public education should, as far as reasonably practical, prepare directly for the practical duties of life. This board therefore commend to the favourable consideration of the public and of the teachers in their service an exhibition of school work, to be held in Dartmouth next summer, for the encouragement of industrial education." Commissioner Sweet stated that a delegation from Dartmouth had appeared before the committee on Tuesday in reference to the latter matter, and presented it favourably to the committee. The report was adopted.

THE following unique piece of educational intelligence will perhaps amuse as well as edify our readers. It is taken from the *Huntsville Forester*.—"The public sentiment of the quiet and peaceful village of Bracebridge has been greatly disturbed over a school question the last week or two. One of the unruly scholars undertook to run the school and the teacher, Mr. Thomas, took him to task and punished him severely, but probably not any more than the boy deserved. Complaint was made to the school board and the board passed a strong resolution condemnatory of the action of the teacher, which satisfied the enraged parents and the people in the village. One or two vindictive parties were not satisfied with the course pursued, and urged the parents to take the matter into court, and in due course the matter came before one of 'Mowat's basswood magistrates,' who sentenced Mr. Thomas to two months in Barrie gaol, and he was taken and locked up in the Bracebridge lock-up intending to be sent on next day to Barrie. When the sentence of the court reached the ears of the *habitants* great was the indignation thereof, in fact so great was the heat in the body politic that if the prisoner had not been released Bracebridge

would have probably suffered the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah. Such a thing as allowing the teacher to go to Barrie for doing his duty by punishing a very unruly boy the villagers would not submit to. But there was the magistrate's verdict, and for the magistrate to change his verdict—if it was a correct one—to satisfy the whims of the people was something unheard of, and any magistrate to do such an act is not fit for his position. And more than that the people could not bear the thought of the teacher spending the night in the "cooler," and large sums of money were offered as security to the magistrate to allow him out on bail. This the magistrate refused, and he even refused to allow the teacher to go across the road from the lock-up and sleep in a neighbour's house with the constable, the pair of course to be chained together. This action on the part of the basswood official so enraged the citizens that they were prepared to do anything unconstitutional to gain the prisoner's release. One after another of the most respectable taxpayers approached the beak and characterized his action as most despicable, but he refused to yield until one man went up to the basswood official, and, metaphorically speaking, took him by the coat collar and drew his attention to a statement he made before the hearing of the case, of what he would do when the case came before him, and threatened to expose him for sitting on the case after giving vent to his prejudiced feelings. This so staggered the basswood sapping that the bark loosened and he yielded, and instead of sending the teacher to gaol he was let off with a \$20 fine. That is one way of changing a verdict."

OUR readers may wish to know how the question of teachers' pensions is dealt with in Quebec. We take the following from the *Montreal Witness*:—

The administrative commission appointed under the Teachers' Pension Act sat in Quebec from November 19th to November 22nd inclusive, and, after appointing Mr. F. N. Couillard secretary of the commission, adopted at its several sessions the following resolutions, defining its mode of applying in particular cases the provisions of the Pension Act 14. The sections named are those of the Act to which each resolution refers.

Sections 1, 7 and 14.—That a teacher holding a diploma becomes an officer of primary instruction. He can, in consequence, in accordance with the provisions of service from the age of eighteen, whatever may be the date of his diploma.

Section 2.—That the words elementary, model and academy in section 2 of said Act apply to the school and not to the teacher.

Section 9.—That in the opinion of the Administrative Commission the word "pendant" in the French version of the word "during" in the English version of section 9 of said Act, should be interpreted in a liberal sense in the case of a teacher who has not been able, for reasons beyond his control, to teach during a certain part of the

five last years preceding his application for a pension.

Section 4.—That as no grant is allowed for a service of more than thirty-five years, it follows that no stoppage can be made on the salary of an officer of primary instruction after he has paid stoppage for thirty-five years.

Section 5.—That the average salary is obtained by dividing the total amount of the salary upon which the officer has paid his stoppage by the number of years of teaching, the quotient obtained by this division cannot exceed fifteen hundred dollars.

Section 7.—That the years passed as a Normal school pupil are included in the number of years of service, but the officer pays no stoppage for these years, as he receives no salary.

Section 11.—That an officer who wishes to qualify his wife to receive a pension must pay, in addition to the stoppage payable by himself, a sum equal to half said stoppage for the years during which said officer has been married.

Sections 11, 14 and 15.—Now, as the stoppage for the years previous to 1880 is fixed at 5 per cent, it follows that the stoppage will be 7½ per cent for the years during which said officer has been married. Two-fifths of 3 per cent must be paid before the 1st of January, 1887, and one-fifth or 1½ per cent must be retained annually from the pension of said officer during the first years in which he receives his pension. If such officer dies before he obtains his pension, there will be retained from the widow's pension one-half per cent to complete the sum which her husband should have paid for her.

Section 14.—That an officer of primary instruction may pay the stoppage for the years since 1880, provided he establishes to the satisfaction of the administrative commission that his failure to pay the stoppage has been due to just and reasonable causes.

Sections 28 and 33.—That the salary of an officer of primary instruction who opens a private school, or temporarily accepts a position therein, shall be fixed according to the scale of salaries provided in section 33 of said Act.

Section 34.—That an officer of primary instruction who teaches a night school, opened and directed by school commissioners, may add to his salary the sum which he receives for teaching therein, provided that he is engaged and paid by the school commissioners, this sum being considered as salary and not as an emolument.

Section 34.—That the board of an officer of primary instruction which has been given by the school authorities, or by the rate-payers, or by the institution in which said officer has taught, shall be estimated and included in his salary.

Since the meeting of the Commission, a return of the capitalized fund now in the hands of the Government has been made by the Provincial Treasurer, showing that the amount accumulated is \$115,407.19, the semi-annual interest on which in aid of the pensions now to be paid, is \$2,885.17. The amount available for the payment of the half-yearly pensions due January 1st, 1887, may be estimated at \$11,750. It is not probable that the rate of stoppage will be more than 2 per cent this year. Teachers are reminded that back stoppages must be paid before the end of December.