

would not meet the demand, certificates were furnished by me to make up any deficiency.

The twelve volumes reserved for competition at the township examinations were for proficiency in the following branches, viz:—

For pupils aged 12 years, and upwards, English History. Canadian History.

For pupils under 12 years of age, Spelling, 3rd. and 4th. Books. Mental Arithmetic.

The township examinations were very numerous attended by the parents of the pupils, and the clergymen of the several townships. The proceedings were, in every township, listened to with the deepest interest and attention; and the strictest order was maintained.

The classes in English and Canadian History were very creditable to the pupils and teachers, particularly in Hungerford and Rawdon. In spelling and mental arithmetic, a great and decided improvement was observable in every township. In these classes the number of competitors varied from 40 to 50.

From the general expression of opinion at the close of the township examinations, I found that the division of the prize-books, between the several sections (as above explained), was highly approved; that the sectional examinations had been well attended, and great interest taken in them by the inhabitants of the sections; that schools, hitherto unrepresented at the township examinations, had taken a part in these; and that the attendance at the schools had been more regular, and the averages increased.

In North Hastings, the average attendance for the half-year ending in June, 1865, was 1,874. For the half-year ending in June, 1866, was 2,033. Increase, 159.

Since the introduction of the township examinations in this county, the senior classes have now been examined in grammar, geography, arithmetic, the Histories of Rome, Greece, England, Canada; and sacred history. The junior classes in reading, spelling, writing, mental arithmetic, and definitions, &c., in grammar and geography.

I have no doubt that another year will witness a general contribution by the sections, for the purpose of purchasing additional prizes for distribution at the school section examinations.

The warmest thanks were voted to the Hon. Mr. Flint, in every township, for his liberal donation; and sincere regret expressed for his non-attendance, in consequence of pressure of business.

It is with great pleasure that I state that, in some of the townships, where many of the pupils in each class were declared equal, that prizes were presented by clergymen and gentlemen then present. In Madoc Village, by the Rev. Mr. Wishart, and the Rev. Mr. Campbell, for good conduct. In Madoc Township, by the Rev. Mr. Merrill, the Rev. Mr. Thompson, and the warden, A. F. Wood, Esq. In Hungerford, a subscription was taken up during the examination, by the Rev. Mr. McCaul, and the Rev. Mr. Howell, for the purchase of additional prize-books, and forwarded to the department. In Huntingdon, additional prizes were presented by the Rev. Mr. Howell, the reeve, Thos. Emo, Esq., and Mr. Goldsmith, a teacher of the South Riding, acting as one of the judges.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

T. S. AGAR,

Local Superintendent, North Hastings.

2. TOWNSHIP SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

A correspondent of the Belleville Intelligencer, writes as follows.

ELZEVR.—At Elzevir four schools were represented out of six, two were absent from some misunderstanding. The Examination was conducted by the Local Superintendent, Mr. Agar. The branches in which the pupils were examined were in English and Canadian History, for pupils above 12 years of age, and Spelling and Mental Arithmetic for those under that age. The beautiful School House at Bridgewater was crowded with the pupils and their friends, and after a long and close examination, the prizes, 12 volumes, were awarded (by judges chosen by the teachers,) to the successful competitors. In every branch a warm and close competition was maintained, marked by the best of feeling on the part of the pupils; the proficiency they exhibited was in every way creditable to them and their teachers. At the close of the proceedings addresses were delivered by the Wesleyan Minister stationed at Bridgewater, the Local Superintendent and other friends.

HUNGERFORD.—At Tweed on the following day I found the Town Hall closely packed with an anxious crowd of friends and pupils. The Rev. Mr. McCaul, the Rev. Mr. Howell and the resident Bible Christian Minister at Tweed, acted as judges. The classes in History were, I may truly say, excellent, as were those in spelling and Mental Arithmetic. In some of the classes several pupils were declared equal, and I was highly gratified to see the Revs. Mr. McCaul and Mr. Howell go among the audience and take up a collection for the purchase of extra prize-books. They got \$4, which they immediately gave to the Chief Superintendent for the

purchase of the books. The audience was addressed by the Revd. gentlemen before named and by the Hon. B. Flint, who happened to be passing at the close of the examination.

HUNTINGDON. At Huntingdon the Examination was held in the Wesleyan Church at Moira, and under the able management of H. Ostrom, Esq., the proceedings were marked by the greatest order and decorum. I was pleased to observe the Rev. Mr. Howell here, acting as and of the judges, with Thomas Emo, Esq., the Reeve, and Goldsmith, a teacher from South Hastings. The proficiency in History in this Township, though creditable, was inferior to that of Hungerford, but in Spelling and Mental Arithmetic great credit was due to the pupils. Several of them having been declared equal the judges kindly presented extra prizes. I was highly gratified in listening here to an able address on the subject of Education, from the Rev. Mr. Howell. They gave an excellent dinner to their friends and the pupils, which was greatly enhanced by the hearty good feeling with which they treated their visitors.

RAWDON.—I found at the Town Hall at Rawdon on the following Monday a large assembly, and at the close of a very interesting examination, and unable to decide whether Hungerford or Rawdon produced the best scholars. In History, Spelling and Mental Arithmetic, both of these Townships did themselves great credit, and I congratulate their inhabitants upon their liberality and good sense in procuring good teachers and keeping them (as I found they did from enquiry), permanently in their schools.

From the statements made by Mr. Agar, Local Superintendent, I learned that the prize-books (purchased by donations from the Hon. B. Flint and the Municipal Councils), were, with the exception of 12 volumes, distributed among the several Sections in proportion to their last half yearly average.—The 12 volumes were competed for at the Township Examinations above described; and the books in each section at School Section Examinations, and that great satisfaction had resulted from the adoption of this plan.

OTHER TOWNSHIPS.—The Examinations in other Townships are said to have been equally satisfactory.

3. CORNWALL SCHOOLS COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

To the Editor of the Freeholder.

SIR,—It affords me unqualified pleasure to be able through the medium of your journal to inform the public that the recently proposed scheme of holding a competitive examination of the Cornwall Township Common Schools will [D.V.] be fully carried out.

By the personal kindness of the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, M.P.P.,* who has generously given the handsome sum of fifty dollars to be expended in prize books for the successful competitors, and which sum will be doubled by the "Educational Department," the monetary question has been placed beyond a doubt.

As formerly intimated, competent examiners have already been secured, so that in order to render the occasion a success the only thing necessary is the cordial co-operation of the parents and teachers themselves. The attendance of those residing at the more distant points will necessarily involve a little sacrifice, but this it is hoped will be cheerfully made. Apart from other considerations, the costliness of some of the books to be competed for; the large number of prizes on the whole, together with the intended liberal distribution of them to the respective classes are facts which should furnish sufficient inducement to earnest action on the part of all concerned.

The examination, which is designed to cover all the subjects taught in the schools in question, and to be managed as far as possible in writing, will be conducted in the public school buildings in this town on Friday the 21st of December next, commencing at 9 o'clock a.m.

The distribution of prizes will take place in the Town Hall at 3 o'clock on the same day, when the public will be admitted to witness the closing exercises of the occasion.

The town schools, it will be understood, are not included. The number of pupils from each Township school not to exceed six.

Hoping for a large attendance not only of pupils, but also of teachers, parents, and friends of education, generally,

I remain yours &c.,

JOSEPH HUGILL,

Local Superintendent.

Cornwall, Nov. 29, 1866.

4. MERIT CARDS AND THE LITTLE ONES.

A Teacher in Hibbert under date of the 1st inst., writes to the Department as follows:—"So delighted are my pupils with your beautiful Merit Cards, that the little ones have made up a dollar amongst themselves, and they have requested me to remit it to you for fifty of your 'one hundred Merit Cards,' to be sent by mail."

* D. A. McDonald, Esq., M.P.P. (his brother), has also generously offered *Eighty dollars* for prizes in his township. See, also, a record of Hon. Mr. Flint's liberality in this matter, on this page.