

At the late Provincial Convention, Mr. David Johnston, of Cobourg, the first Vice-President, and Chairman of the Public School Section, hinted at the probability of his early retirement from the active duties of his profession, owing to increasing years. We find by a recent file of the *Cobourg Sentinel* that this has actually taken place. We cannot allow the occasion to pass without expressing our regret at the loss to the profession, of a public-spirited, patriotic, and earnest-minded teacher.

We have more than once had scholars whom Mr. Johnston had trained, and their mental and moral calibre gave evidence of the highest style of the teacher's handiwork.

Mr. Johnston's retirement will be a loss not only to the town of Cobourg, but to the Province. He has shewn an untiring sympathy with all that concerned the advancement of education and of the profession. He was a member of one of the first County Associations held in the province, and for many years past has been a regular attendant at the Provincial Conventions, in which he always took a prominent part, not as a time-server nor in the spirit of self-aggrandizement, but as one who regarded the interests of education and the independence of the teacher as too sacred to be bartered for either power or pelf. We can only wish that in his retirement he may enjoy the *otium cum dignitate* which is the proper

reward of his laborious and well-spent life.

THE *London Times*, in a thoughtful article on the School Board elections that occur on the 27th of November, shews a thorough appreciation of what the London School Board has done, and points out that the election cry of "Efficiency with Economy" is as capable of being used for the defence as for the attack of the Board. The providing of education for more than a quarter of a million of children, who would otherwise have been left uncared for, sinks the question as to whether it might not have been done at a cheaper rate into absolute insignificance. More education means less juvenile crime; and one form of crime the Board has stamped out. There is no longer the old supply of pick-pockets, trained in the manner of *Oliver Twist*. The reformatory and industrial school render this impossible by turning out seventy to eighty per cent. of their inmates to earn an honest livelihood.

By latest advices we find that out of the fifty members elected on the 27th November, nine are women. Amongst these we shall be disappointed if we do not find such names as Mrs. Westlake, Miss Muller, and Miss Richardson, who have taken an active and enlightened part in School Board work in London, either as members of the Board, as in Mrs. Westlake's case, or as managers of schools, as in the case of the other ladies.

Dr. H. Rink, the author of a recent work on the Interior of Greenland, estimates the area of that inhospitable land at 512,000 square miles. The surface is wholly covered with ice, and is constantly engaged in the formation of material for icebergs, which probably take one hundred years to travel to the sea. In one of the ice-fjords the portion of glacier annually pushed in and set afloat as ice-bbergs has been calculated to constitute a cubical body 900 feet high, two miles long, and two miles broad. The whole system of river drainage is represented a continuous sheet of ice.

THE gross cost per annum for pupils in the London Board Schools is £2 10s. 11½d. sterling, or \$12.40 each.

To enforce the compulsory clause of the English Education Act, the London School Board employs 208 visitors, over whom are placed eleven superintendents, whose duty it is to bring truants, and those children neglected or put to work before the legal age by their parents, within the influence of school training. The total cost of compulsion for London amounts to the good round sum of \$141,020.

IN Russia there were, in 1865, but 8,000 elementary Schools with 280,000 pupils. Now there are 24,000 of the former filled by 1,000,000 of the latter; but this is far from meeting the requirements of a country containing 12,000,000 children between the ages of seven and thirteen.