

the Russian administration to dispense with the obligation under which it has always lain of employing foreigners in its service, from the lack of native talent. Only last year an instruction was sent round to all the Government workshops or railways and elsewhere that not a single manager or foreman must be employed who is not a Russian, or who will not become naturalized. Whether this order can be carried out, except at considerable cost to the efficiency of the service, is very doubtful. For, as Mr. Mather remarks, the presence of foreigners at present in almost all the important positions in railways, workshops, and other undertakings, though many of them had but little theoretical scientific training, shows that, great as has been the desire to employ natives only in responsible posts, it has not hitherto been found possible to do so. The foreign workman in Russia, when promoted to the position of manager or foreman, is found worth a salary twice or thrice that which it is worth while to pay to a far more highly educated native. If he is to be displaced, therefore, it can only be by a still more rigid application of that principle of protection to native industry which compels the Russian railway companies to buy all the nails they require of Russian makers. It may be worth consideration whether there is any natural reason why Russians prove themselves so far inferior to German and Englishmen in occupations requiring technical skill, or whether in the institutions where they are trained at great cost they do not receive too much theoretical instruction and too little practical. What is certain is, that the expenditure upon such institutions is lavish, and either they are not properly conducted, or the Russian is wanting in aptitude to profit by the lessons they impart, if it is necessary to protect him by law from foreign competition. The Imperial Technical School of Moscow is a regular university for civil and mechanical engineers, chemists, and other scientific workers. The establishment possesses an endowment of about 400,000L. It has all the appliances and facilities which can be considered necessary, practice is combined with theory in its curriculum, and yet the results are not satisfactory. According to Mr. Mather, the school has no marked effect upon the development of civil or mechanical engineering, or of manufacturing industry, in the last twenty-five years. St. Petersburg possesses a grand Technological Institute and a vast number of technical schools of one sort and another, but their pupils do not appear to be more successful than those of Moscow. A striking proof of the difficulty which attends institutions that do not, so to say, grow out of the actual wants of a country, is found in the non-success of the Lyceum at Moscow. This was intended by its founder, the Grand Duke Nicholas, brother to the late Emperor, to be a Russian Eton, where boys of the highest classes might be educated together. Provision was made for 600 boys, who were to pay 120L a year for education and board. There appears to be nothing to complain of in the teaching, but the school is not appreciated, and instead of 600 scholars it has only 120.—*London Globe.*

QUEBEC.

From our own Correspondent.

The Hon. Donald A. Smith, has supplemented his former gift of \$50,000 by \$70,000 for the support of collegiate classes for women, on condition that separate classes be provided throughout the entire course. The endowment is to be called the "Donalds Endowment." This will enable McGill University to offer special advantages to young women desiring to take a University Course and also enable them to strengthen the teaching staff of the Arts Faculty.

The election of Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill University, as President of the British Association for the advancement of science for 1880, will be regarded with great satisfaction not only in the Province of Quebec, but also throughout the Dominion as a remarkable recognition of Scientific Work in Canada.

The Scientists of Montreal, are making a strong effort to establish Botanic Gardens on the slopes of Mount Royal. The City Council and the Local Legislature have been approached in this matter, and it is expected that funds will be obtained to carry out the scheme at an early date. This is a most important movement and will be productive of great good.

Arbore Day has been appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, for the 5th and 19th days of May next, for the western and eastern sections of the Province. This is the third year that the day has been officially proclaimed. A circular has been issued by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, calling upon all those engaged in Educational Work to take part in the celebration.

The Pension Act for teachers which is strongly criticized by some teachers, and as strongly supported by others, has been under

consideration of the government. Passed in 1880 it does come into force so far as the payment of pensions is concerned until 1st of July next.

In the meantime it has been found that the income is not sufficient to pay the pensions promised, and it becomes necessary to amend the Act before it comes into force, and therefore during the present session. The Protestant Teachers and the Protestant Committee have pronounced against the Act, and the Roman Catholic Teachers and the Roman Catholic Committee have pronounced in favor of it. The Superintendent is also strongly in favor of the Act. The government seem at a loss to know just what to do under the circumstance. There seems to be a general feeling in favor of abolishing the present Act, and beginning on a new basis.

The University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, has not yet secured a principal to replace Rev. Dr. Lobby. A large number of applications have been received from which two or three have been selected for special enquiry, and it is expected that a satisfactory selection will soon be made. The canvass for subscriptions carried on by the Rev. Dr. Rowe, has been very successful, and the financial position of the University has been very much strengthened.

Principal Passmore of St. Francis College, retires from his position at the close of the year.

Mr. G. W. Parmelee of St. Francis College, has been appointed Head Master of the Boys' Model School, in connection with the McGill Normal School. Mr. John Parker of Leeds Model School, takes the place of Mr. Parmelee at St. Francis College.

Mr. Oscar Dunn, French Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction, died very suddenly at Quebec on the 15th instant, Mr. Dunn was a journalist of some reputation and held the position of secretary for three years.

The retirement of two head-masters from the city schools of Montreal, under peculiar circumstances has led to a change all round in the Head-Masters. Among the changes it is satisfactory to notice the return of Mr. S. P. Rowell, from a private school, to the charge of his old school in Ann Street.

Correspondence.

THE NEW READERS.

To the Editor of THE CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL.

SIR, When so many changes are being made in our Text Book system, I deem it the duty of all teachers to express their opinions on the subject for who should be more competent judges, than the persons who use these books? Allow me to refer to the "Reading Books." First, let me ask: Was there any necessity for changing the old Second, Third and Fourth Readers? I think the two parts of the First Book might be profitably changed, but the other books mentioned, may be used to as great advantage as any other series that has been, or may be authorized. For what is a Reading Book placed in the hands of a pupil? Is it merely for what literary instruction it contains? Is it not rather for the purpose of giving exercises for use in learning "how to read"; viz. for practice in the principles of Emphasis, Intonation and Inflection. When pupils leave school for other pursuits, and wish to pursue their literary studies, they do not resort to their old Reading Books for reading matter. Then our Reading Books are simply used as a means of teaching reading. I believe reading can be taught just as successfully by selections from newspapers—for there you find all the principles of reading exemplified—as from any other extracts; and probably it might be thus taught with greater profit, for such a selection may contain matter in which the pupils are practically interested. This would secure closer attention than otherwise, and consequently better reading. But some will say, "The pupils have become tired of those old books." Perhaps so, but this should not be the case. No pupil should go through a Reading Book more than once. By the time he has had a thorough drill in the reading of the various selections say, in the Third Book, from beginning to end, he will be quite qualified to be promoted to the Fourth Book.

With the above ideas before me, I cannot see wherein the old series of the Second, Third and Fourth Book is defective. I have more to say, but will wait for another opportunity.

A YOUNG TEACHER.

West Gwillimbury Township, April 18th, 1885.