

many. The head master, who will teach classics, is Rev. Canon Gilpin, D.D., Archdeacon. He was head master of the Grammar School and is an able scholar and an excellent teacher. A teacher of mathematics, with a salary of \$1400, and a teacher of English, with a salary of \$1200, are advertised for by the Board of School Commissioners. The post of teacher of Modern Languages is also vacant.

MANITOBA.

The Governor-General's silver medal was awarded to Mr. Patrick Havery for mathematics, and the bronze medal donated by his Excellency was awarded Mr. N. Bétournay for French composition.

The Rev. J. Robertson, of Winnipeg, has been elected by the Board of Education as its representative on the Senate of the Provincial University.

The contractor of the Winnipeg Central School expects to have the building ready for occupation by the 1st of September. It is to be brick veneer, and will have a fine commanding appearance. When completed it will be the chief architectural ornament of the city.

St. John's and Manitoba Colleges have closed for the summer vacation. Also the two principal Ladies' Schools in the Province, Miss Bainatyne's and Miss Lane's. The summer vacations in the Public Schools are, in rural districts, from 1st August to 1st September, and in Winnipeg from 15th July to 1st September.

The examination for the Isbister Prizes, (£5, £4 and £3), open to all public schools in the Province, took place July 11th, and the Protestant School Boards Examination of Teachers commenced on the 10th July at Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie.

By the middle of November the St. John's College Ladies' School is to be furnished. It is to be a large and commodious building, costing about \$20,000, with Miss Hart Davies of the Oakfield Academy as Principal. It is to have a Board of Governors, the Bishop of Rupert's Land as President, and Rev. Canon Grisdale, Secretary. An English clergyman, connected with the Church Missionary Society, has become the founder of the institution by a handsome donation exceeding \$7,000.

The Unitary method of teaching arithmetic is followed in the Winnipeg Schools, and there seems to be a disposition to adopt the Canadian edition of Hamblin Smith's as the text book. In this edition the editors, besides adopting it to Canadian currency, have corrected numerous errors which have inadvertently crept into the English edition. Many new problems have been added and other improvements made.

For some months past the educationists of Manitoba have been discussing with much keenness the question of non-sectarian schools. The discussion took its origin with a bill which the Protestant section of the Board of Education intended to submit to the Legislature at its last session. Before the bill was drafted, the principles which it was to embody leaked out and were published in the *Globe*, though to no one in Manitoba were they known save the members of the Board. This excited a good deal of comment, which, together with a merciless flagellation which the Board received from the *Standard* on account of a new programme for the examination of teachers, and other regulations, so demoralized them that, though they drafted their bill and had it printed, they did not lay it before the Legislature at all, so hopeless was the prospect. At this time Archbishop Taché, somewhat alarmed for the safety of his "Denomination or Free Christian Schools," published, in successive numbers of the *Standard*, a long letter, subsequently issued in pamphlet form, in which His Grace maintained that the proposed system of national schools was contrary to the provisions of the British North America and Manitoba Acts, as well as subversive of all religious principles and so ruinous to society as to foster every vice and to stifle every virtue. To this a vigorous reply was immediately given by a member of the Protestant Board, generally supposed to be Rev. Mr. Robertson. Not long after this, there appeared a letter from *Libertas*, which attracted general notice for the ability with which it was written and the clearness with which it set forth the legal aspect of the question in favor of the non-sectarian system. Whether the points made in this letter are correct or not, which cannot probably be settled until the matter comes before some of the highest tribunals in the realm, it is generally admitted to be the most masterly production which has yet appeared on the subject. For some time after its appearance it was thought that no person of less legal acumen than Chief Justice Wood or some of the leading lawyers could have written it, though now it is popularly, and no doubt correctly credited to the pen of Rev. Prof. Boyce, of Manitoba

College. The Archbishop meanwhile continued his letter, presenting his objections from a social and religious point of view; the *Standard* itself took strong ground against His Grace's position, advocating the abolition of the dual system, favoring, however, such compromises as the permissive use of French, and options in text-books in history. Since then, with the exceptions of one or two anonymous letters, there has been a lull in the controversy. Thus far none have taken part in it except educationists immediately interested. The general public are too busy with the activities of life in a new country to give the matter close attention, though the probability is that at no distant day it will form an important plank in the political platform. The *Standard* newspaper, which has given considerable attention to educational topics, has had a change in its management of late, and rumour hath it that henceforth its position, with regard to these matters, will be similar to that of its contemporary the *Free Press*, which, while avowing non-sectarian principles, exhibits no anxiety to agitate at present such a thorny question.

—The Teachers of Boston have organized an Association for the purpose of "extending aid to sick and superannuated teachers." It is instituted under the City School Board, on a plan somewhat similar to that of the Superannuated Teachers' fund in the Province of Ontario.

—The next meeting of the Education Society of Eastern Ontario has been postponed until the 26th, 27th and 28th of December.

—A book agent, writing to his publishers concerning a valuable educational work, says that he is much discouraged, because seventy per cent. of the teachers are young girls, who do not hesitate to spend ten dollars for a fashionable bonnet, but can not be induced to spend two dollars for a work essential to success in their calling. While we believe the young man exaggerated, still his statement contains an element of truth. We have too many in the school-room, who seldom, if ever, read anything pertaining to their profession, or make any effort to improve their qualifications as teachers. It would be an interesting fact, if we could know the number of teachers who take an educational journal, or own so standard a work as "Page's Theory, and Practice of Teaching." Teaching should be an intellectual calling; it often is not, and years pass away in dull routine, with no genuine study into the art and science of that grandest of all callings, training the mind.—*Educational Weekly*.

Departmental Notices.

REVISED REGULATIONS AS TO SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

APPROVED BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, MAY 8, 1877.

1.—RURAL SCHOOLS.

The law as now amended (see sec. 17 (2) of Act 1877) requires Trustees of Rural School Sections to provide adequate school accommodation in their sections, "so as to accommodate at least two thirds of the children who have the right to attend the school of the section, according to the census taken by the Trustees for the next preceding year." This includes all children resident in the School Section, between the ages of five and twenty-one years, and also children from adjacent school sections, whom the Trustees are required to admit upon certain conditions.

The School accommodation required by the Act for Schoolhouses hereafter to be erected, is hereby defined as follows, and these requisites are to be construed to apply to existing Schoolhouses, so far as the circumstances of each Section may enable them to be complied with, without pressing unduly upon the resources of the Section. Inspectors will see to the carrying out of the Regulations. Special cases of omission or difficulty to be reported to the Department for decision or advice.

1.—Rural School Site, House and Appendages.

1. *Fifty Children and under—Site.* When the number of children resident in a Section is fifty or under, the site for the schoolhouse shall not be less than half an acre in extent.

2. *Over Fifty Children—Site.* When the number exceeds fifty, the site shall not be less than an acre in extent.

3. *Kind of House.* On such site there shall be a substantial school-house of wood, brick, stone, etc. (the kind to be determined at the pleasure of the Trustees), set back at least ten yards from the road or street. The walls of the house shall not be less than ten feet high in the clear.