

per set. I would also very much wish to have for each school the time and limit tables printed on large sheets (at 5 cents each), for being put up on the wall of the school-room.

"Actually the indifference of trustees and teachers to the prosperity of the schools is discouraging. A few of those which I have visited (about 20) are well conducted, but the greater number are managed in a way only calculated to excite in a visitor the feeling of pity for the children, and indignation at the conduct of the teacher and trustees. Many of the teachers spend a disproportionate time on those scholars using the first book, to the neglect of other studies. I cannot say the *first class*, because they teach these beginners mostly individually. I hope these lesson sheets will be a remedy for that evil."

3. THE MODEL SCHOOLS FOR ONTARIO.

The Model School will be re-opened this morning, after an exceptionally long vacation. The popularity of the school had outgrown its room extent, and each succeeding term the educational authorities were importuned with increasing applications for the admittance of larger numbers of new pupils than could be satisfactorily received.

It was decided, therefore, by the Government, to enlarge the building, and Mr. Tully, Government architect, prepared the designs in May last. Upon representation of the educational authorities the extensions at first projected were still further amplified, and although the pupils have been indulged in a somewhat longer vacation than usual, they will be enabled to resume their studies to-day in a much roomier and better ventilated building; and a large number of new pupils, who have been vainly endeavouring to gain entrance to the school for some time back, will to-day be able to obtain the much desired admittance. The extensions of the building and the surmounting it with the French or Mansard roof has lifted it from its previous architectural modesty into a style more pretentious and imposing. The area now covered by the building is 180×84 feet, and this is divided into two large school-rooms in the centre, and class-rooms and galleries on the wings of the first floor, and into galleries and class-rooms on the second. The east wing, as heretofore, will be allotted to the boys, and the west to the girls, and separate stair-cases lead from each wing to the second floor. The large class-rooms, 35×56 feet, have not been enlarged, the apartments where the contractedness of the space was most felt being in the galleries and class-rooms, which have all been more or less extended in so far as the indented conformation of the original building permitted. The first floors of the wings comprise class-rooms and galleries, 21×17 feet, divided by entrance halls, with masters' rooms, 16×15 feet, and cap and cloak rooms, 27×12 feet. With the exception that there are no cloak rooms, and that the galleries measure 34×27 feet, the second floors of the wings are similarly divided. On the immediate east and west of the school-rooms are two class-rooms, 25×19 , and book and map cases have been affixed in convenient nooks and corners about the building. The raised stair-like seats in the galleries have been provided with solid wooden backs, which, while they give comfort and ease to the children, prevent the soiling of clothes by the feet of the upper tier scholars. Each school-room, class-room and gallery has been provided with an improved and novel species of blackboard, which here must be held a misnomer, inasmuch as the article is not manufactured out of board or timber, but consists of a composition of lime, oxyd of manganese, and various other ingredients. This admirable cement has been laid on the unplastered brick of the walls, and after being trowelled into a perfectly even surface, has hardened into an almost adamant concrete. An application of varnish heightens the polish of the surface, upon which the pencil of chalk runs facily. This description of blackboard is a great improvement on the old board style, which cracked and warped with the heat of the school-room. Mr. Price, the clerk of Public Works, holds the recipe for the compounding of the cement, and he states that it has been found to capitally withstand the crucial test of time. The deck of the roof, which measures 80×176 feet, is covered with galvanized iron, and surmounted by cupolas in the centre and on the wings. The school bell still holds its old place in the centre cupola, which was jackscrewed up several feet. The whole building is well lighted, ventilated and heated, and all the walls of the different rooms have been washed with lime, coloured to a bright cheerful chrome, a hue that is very congenial to youthful eyes. In addition to the enlargement of the building, a propagating conservatory is in process of construction a few yards to the south-west corner of it. This construction of wood and glass, with a brick floor to the potting-room, measures 20×40 feet. The heating apparatus will be situated some 20 feet from the conservatory, so that the floral patients will not be endangered by smoke, while they are warmed and nurtured by heat. The gardens

of the enclosure contain many valuable specimens of the floral kingdom, and a conservatory has been found absolutely necessary to their growth and preservation during the winter months. This building, moreover, adds considerably to the handsomeness of the grounds. Designs of a tool house and a store house have been prepared by Mr. Tully, and these buildings—the one to be a depository for the tools and implements of the gardeners, and the other for packing-cases and other material used by the education office, and which now litter and encumber portions of the grounds—will be proceeded with at once. The drainage of the grounds, the system of which has been heretofore partial, defective and inefficient, is now being traced and properly repaired and extended; and altogether the improvements already completed and now in process and projection about the grounds, are of a very salutary nature.—*Telegraph.*

4. NEW NORMAL SCHOOLS FOR ONTARIO.

We believe that everybody who knows anything of the educational interests of the country, will agree with us in urging the local Government to set about building new Normal Schools at their earliest convenience. We have Common Schools in abundance, Grammar Schools in number sufficient for the wants of the Province; but it is an undeniable fact that the present training depot is wholly inadequate to supply the demand for Normal School teachers. Since its opening, the Normal School in this city has held 42 sessions; 2,936 certificates have been granted by it, of which 936 count as naught, having been obtained by students who went from second to first class, and obtained a certificate for each grade. There are two sessions a year, so that the forty-two sessions extend over a period of twenty years, in which time 2,000 students have been turned out, being at the rate of hardly 100 per annum. If it is borne in mind that probably sixty per cent. of these were females, who retired as soon as possible from the profession to the more congenial pursuits afforded by matrimony; and that probably ten per cent. of the male teachers went into other business, the need for more teachers can be easily understood. In this Province there are 4,524 schools of one class or another, and it is evident that our Normal School, efficiently managed as it is, cannot pretend to cope with the demand. We want at least two new Normal Schools, one in the east, the other in the west of Ontario. Some have agitated the enlargement of the present school, but, favourable as that scheme is to Toronto, we fail to recognize its utility. The centralization system must not be pursued too far. It is well enough to make the capital of the Province the headquarters of the great educational institutions, but we are in favour of having radiating branches distributed among other districts. We believe that hundreds of students have been dissuaded from attending the Normal School by the expense consequent upon living in a large city, and by its distance from their homes. Put a new school above Toronto, and another below, and none need complain either of distance or expense. We trust that the Government will take this matter up at the earliest opportunity in the coming session. The question has been mooted by many of our contemporaries of both shades of politics, and we are certain that what we here advocate is the unanimous wish of the country.—*Ibid.*

5. NEW AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FOR ONTARIO.

The plans for the new Agricultural College, about to be erected at Mimico, by the Government, have been prepared by Mr. Tully, Government Architect and Engineer, and the estimates for the erection of the same are now being prepared. The College will consist of two separate buildings, a corridor leading from one to the other. The front or principal building will be used as the academy, the rear building being used as the residence of tutors and scholars. The buildings will be built of red bricks, the front being relieved with arches and string courses of white bricks. The roof will be a Mansard one, and covered with slate, with galvanized iron decks and ornamental iron turrets. In the centre of the roof of the front building will be erected a dome, similar to the one on the Government House, in this city, and when completed, the building will present a very handsome appearance. The basement of the front building or academy will be fitted up as servants and store rooms, kitchen, and private and chemical laboratories. On the ground floor will be the president's offices, professors' rooms, library, class rooms, drawing and dining rooms, and private laboratory. In the attic will be the professors' rooms, a museum, students' drawing room, three bed rooms and one bath room. On the first floor, two large bed rooms, one class room, professors' and students' ante-rooms, and model and sample rooms. In the rear building the basement will be occupied as general store rooms, kitchen and din-