

THE JOURNAL APPROVED.

WE are pleased to find that our efforts to still further improve the SCHOOL JOURNAL and SCHOOL EXAMINER are fully appreciated by our subscribers as the following from a Head Master of High School will show:—"Both the JOURNAL and the EXAMINER shew marked improvement, not only in ability, but also in the general appreciation of the wants of those they are designated to help. The article "Incredible," (article referred to the proposed appointment of Mr. Hunter to the Central Committee) for ability would grace any School Journal, and assuredly its teachings will be endorsed by every unprejudiced High School Master in Ontario."

AN IMPORTANT MEASURE.

A bill has been introduced into the Senate of the United States by Hon. H. W. Blair, Senator for New Hampshire and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, designed to supplement the working of the common school system of the various States by aid from the Federal treasury. The gist of the bill will be gathered from the four opening sections, which are as follows:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That for ten years next after the passage of this act there shall be annually appropriated from the money in the Treasury the following sums, to wit: The first year the sum of \$15,000,000, the second year the sum of \$14,000,000, the third year the sum of \$13,000,000, and therefore a sum diminished \$1,000,000 yearly from the sum last appropriated until ten annual appropriations shall have been made, when all appropriations under this act shall cease; which several sums shall be expended to secure the benefits of common school education to all the children living in the United States.

SEC. 2. That the instruction in the common schools wherein these moneys shall be expended shall include the art of reading, writing, and speaking the English language, arithmetic, geography, history of the United States, and such other branches of useful knowledge as may be taught under local laws, and may include, whenever practicable, instruction in the arts of industry; which instruction shall be free to all, without distinction of race, nativity, or condition in life: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall deprive children of different races, living in the same community but attending separate schools, from receiving the benefits of this act, the same as though the attendance therein were without distinction of race.

SEC. 3. That such money shall be annually divided among and paid out in the several States and Territories in that proportion which the whole number of persons in each who, being of the age of ten years and over, cannot read and write bears to the whole number of such persons in the United States; and until otherwise provided such computation shall be made according to the official returns of the census of 1880.

SEC. 4. That such moneys shall be expended in each State by the concurrent action, each having a negative upon the other, of the Secretary of the Interior, on the part of the United States, and of the superintendent of public schools, board of education, or other body in which the administration of the public-school laws shall be vested, on the part of the several States wherein the expenditures are respectively to be made; and whenever the authorities of the United States and of the State fail to agree as to the distribution, use, and application of the money hereby provided for, or any part thereof, payment thereof, or such part thereof, shall be suspended, and if such disagreement continue throughout the fiscal year for which the same was appropriated, it shall be covered into the Treasury and shall be added to the general appropriation of the next year provided for the first section of this act.

It is provided that the Secretary of the Interior shall be responsible for the practical administration of this law through

the Bureau of Education. The necessity for such a measure is urged on the ground of the painful illiteracy prevalent in some of the states and territories. Senator Blair was able to sustain his plan in a favorable manner by a compilation of statistical facts bearing on illiteracy, prepared at his instance through the Census office and the Bureau of Education, a portion of which we subjoin:

STATES AND TERRITORIES.	Total Population.	Total population who cannot read, 10 years of age and over.	Percentage of total population who cannot read.
The United States	50,155,783	4,023,451	9.81
Alabama.....	1,262,605	370,279	29.33
Arizona.....	40,440	5,496	13.59
Arkansas.....	802,525	163,229	20.09
California.....	864,694	48,583	5.62
Colorado.....	104,327	9,321	4.80
Connecticut.....	622,700	20,968	3.37
Dakota.....	135,177	3,094	2.29
Delaware.....	146,608	16,912	11.54
District of Columbia.....	177,624	21,541	12.13
Florida.....	269,493	70,219	26.06
Georgia.....	1,542,180	446,683	28.96
Idaho.....	32,610	1,384	4.24
Illinois.....	3,077,871	96,809	3.15
Indiana.....	1,978,301	70,008	3.54
Iowa.....	1,624,615	23,117	1.73
Kansas.....	996,096	25,593	2.56
Kentucky.....	1,048,690	268,186	25.66
Louisiana.....	939,646	297,812	31.63
Maine.....	648,936	18,181	2.80
Maryland.....	934,943	111,387	11.91
Massachusetts.....	1,783,085	75,035	4.24
Michigan.....	1,636,937	47,112	2.88
Minnesota.....	780,773	20,551	2.63
Mississippi.....	1,131,579	315,612	27.89
Missouri.....	2,168,380	138,818	6.40
Montana.....	39,150	1,530	3.91
Nebraska.....	452,402	7,830	1.73
Nevada.....	62,266	3,703	5.95
New Hampshire.....	346,991	11,982	3.45
New Jersey.....	1,131,116	39,186	3.46
New Mexico.....	119,565	52,394	44.32
New York.....	5,082,871	166,625	3.28
North Carolina.....	1,399,750	367,890	26.23
Ohio.....	3,198,062	80,764	2.71
Oregon.....	174,768	5,876	3.03
Pennsylvania.....	4,282,881	140,138	3.41
Rhode Island.....	276,631	17,456	9.31
South Carolina.....	995,577	321,780	32.32
Tennessee.....	1,542,350	384,385	25.00
Texas.....	1,591,740	256,223	16.10
Utah.....	143,063	4,851	3.37
Vermont.....	332,286	12,093	3.61
Virginia.....	1,612,665	360,495	22.33
Washington.....	75,116	3,191	4.25
West Virginia.....	618,457	52,041	8.41
Wisconsin.....	1,315,497	38,093	2.94
Wyoming.....	20,789	427	2.05

It is a matter of regret to many that the provisions of our Dominion Census Act do not include statistical elements, of the very highest value.

TEACHERS' CONVENTIONS.—A number of communications have reached us from officers of Teachers' Associations informing us that a meeting of Association would be held on a certain day, and asking for the attendance of Mr. Ross or one of the representatives of the SCHOOL JOURNAL. When we say that Mr. Ross is already engaged for a number of the Associations during May, it will be at once understood that it will be necessary to communicate with us before fixing the day of meeting, should the Association desire to have any of these gentlemen present.