

Notes and News.

ONTARIO.

In consequence of ill health, J. A. Clarke, M.A., B.Sc., has resigned his position as head master of Smith's Falls High School. He has been succeeded by S. Burwash, M.A., of Cobourg.

After the change in the law with reference to the licensing of teachers in 1871, no perceptible change in the staff of teachers was seen for about five years. During this period the older teachers who had been teaching under the former law gradually passed out of the profession. Then followed a transition period of about another five years, during which very many of our schools were in charge of young and inexperienced teachers. Many of those young teachers have remained in the profession, have passed through the Normal School and have obtained permanent certificates. Two-thirds, if not three-fourths of the teachers at present employed in the county, have had as much experience in teaching as the majority of those who were employed twelve years ago, have been very much better trained and hold higher certificates. With a proper appreciation of their services by the public, and by the payment of liberal salaries to all who do good work, the annual wage should be fully provided for by the regular supply from the County Model School.—*Mr. Tilley's Report.*

Some time since we noted the necessity for a new high school building in Orangeville as the two rooms now occupied by the high school pupils are part of the Model School building and are too circumscribed and inconvenient—requiring two teachers with their classes in one room. We perceive that the Board of Education intends to build a new high school.

The University of St. Andrew's has conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws on Mr. Sandford Fleming.

Mr. Robert McCausland, Principal of the Bathurst St. Public School, Toronto, was charged in the Police Court recently, with assault on one of his pupils, a boy named McIntosh. From the evidence it appeared that the boy was very insubordinate, and that the Principal when punishing him did not use the strap, which is the recognized *modus operandi*. The magistrate referred the matter to the School Board who reprimanded Mr. McCausland and also issued instructions to all the principals of the city schools to use the strap only as a means of punishment when necessary. Mr. J. L. Hughes, City Inspector of schools, said the proper course for the teacher was to have suspended the boy and reported the case to him (the Inspector).

Dr. J. G. Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education, visited Hamilton lately and expressed himself much pleased with the manner in which the "no drill" was performed by the children attending the Central school.

CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL.—The last number of this useful educational publication contains a variety of excellent and appropriate articles, original and selected, which those for whom they are intended will highly appreciate. The *Journal* opens with a paper on "William Crockett, A.M.," which is illustrated with a well-defined and life-like portrait. In addition to the usual subjects of a purely scholastic interest provision is made for a free interchange of opinion on educational matters. The correspondence department is a good idea.—*Canada Presbyterian, March 5, 1884.*

We are pleased to note the high stand taken by the Flesherton Public School at the Intermediate and Entrance Examinations. Its present efficiency is entirely due to Mr. M. P. McMaster, the energetic Principal. Mr. McMaster has now entered on his sixth year as head master of the school, with a highly creditable reputation as a successful teacher. He is at present preparing a large class for the Entrance and Intermediate examinations next July. His popularity is vouched for by having been successively the Vice President, the President, and is now the Secretary-Treasurer of the South Grey Teachers' Association.

The next examinations for entrance to the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools is appointed by the Educational Department to be held on Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th of July.

In the Mitchell public school the other day a number of boys were playing with a red hot poker. One of them, either by accident or otherwise, ran the end of it into the eye of a son of Mr. James Sils, and it was thought destroyed the sight. The attending physician, however, has now some hopes of saving the sight.

It is reported in the papers that the schools of Kingston have been so crowded that pupils have had to sit on the floor and on window sills. This is a clear case of the Trustees' Cram to which we called attention a few months ago.

Mr. Samuel McColl, of Dunwich, has been appointed by Mr. A. J. Leitch, Warden of Elgin, interim inspector of public schools for Elgin, in place of the late Mr. A. F. Butler, and will hold the office until next June. The selection of a permanent inspector rests with the County Council. Mr. McColl was formerly superintendent of schools in West Elgin.

Much has also been done in the way of improving the condition of the school room. But much still remains to be done before the school rooms become what they should be, viz: models of tidiness, order and taste, which shall permanently influence for good those who assemble in them day by day. The influence of precepts and maxims may be great, but the influence of personal contact must be far greater, and the daily contact with order and neatness will be a powerful agent in directing and moulding the character of the child. It is to the teacher mainly that we must look for this. The trustees may provide school houses, desks and all school requisites, but the teacher is like the engineer who directs the machinery and keeps everything in order. It is but poor encouragement for trustees after having properly supplied their schools to see the fixtures too soon destroyed, the fence become dilapidated, and the whole school premises show but too plainly the absence of proper care and attention. I should like to see much more done in the way of ornamenting and decorating school rooms. Many teachers have done all that can be desired in this direction; some have done a little, and some have done nothing whatever. This is something in which the pupils should be associated with the teacher. Children acquire habits of neatness and order by the daily practice of the same. And the teacher who gives proper attention to these things in the school room and insists upon their observance is a true friend of the child. It is a true saying that a youth's manners shape his fortune, and the cultivation of taste and proper deportment may be equally as beneficial as the knowledge obtained from books.—*Mr. Tilley's Report.*

Mr. George McMurrich, chairman of the Committee on School Management has, through Inspector J. L. Hughes, intimated to all the teachers in the Public Schools of Toronto, that with the view of preserving a record of the many humorous incidents connected with the work of the school-room in our city, and at the same time cultivating the literary abilities of the teachers, he will, at the close of the present year, give a first and a second prize for the best two collections of anecdotes, written by teachers and describing actual occurrences in our public schools. Teachers need not confine themselves to the present year, but may describe any events in their teaching experience in Toronto. The excellence of the stories, and the ability shown in relating them, will both be taken into account in awarding the prizes.

After four examinations have been held and the results made known they can no longer be regarded as an experiment, and I now wish to ask you, as the representatives of the people, to consider the question carefully and decide whether they shall be permanently established or discontinued. I had full confidence in their usefulness at the beginning, and this confidence has been well sustained by the results. They have developed a much deeper interest in school work among both teachers and pupils; they have directed and have helped to unitize the teaching in the different schools, and have secured proper attention to all classes and to all the subjects of the prescribed programme. By placing a direct object before teachers and pupils they have developed a healthy stimulus, and by the testing of the work each half year have afforded a pretty accurate test of the thoroughness of the work done. They have also been very beneficial in training pupils to express themselves properly in writing and to do their work with neatness and accuracy. I regard this as one of their most important functions which cannot be estimated too highly, and the results and improvement during the past two years have been very satisfactory indeed. Early in December of the present year, I sent out another circular in which, among other questions, I asked the following: (1) Do the promotion examinations continue to develop interest in school work among the pupils? (2) Do you wish these examinations to be continued? I have received replies from every teacher in the county, and all, without a single exception, have expressed their approval of them, and have expressed a desire for their continuance. Many teachers were not satisfied to merely answer in the affirmative but expressed this approval and desire