

ary schools to facilitate writing and arithmetic lessons; but in future only paper plain or ruled in straight lines is to be used."—*Nature*.

SEYMOUR EATON, A.M., editor of *Home and School Supplement*, Toronto, Canada, will be associated with the Niagara Falls Summer School of Methods.

THE Teachers' Committee of the Board of Education, New York, has agreed to make the maximum salaries of all principals who have been employed for four years \$3,000. Nineteen principals will hereafter receive this salary.

THE Parkdale Public School Board met last week, when it was recommended by the Committee on School Management that a teacher be engaged exclusively for a kindergarten class, also an assistant to Miss Duff, who now has a class of nearly one hundred pupils. It was shown by Principal Wismer's report that the average attendance last month amounted to six hundred. The public examinations will take place on June 30th, and the annual games on July 3rd. An art class will also be established during the holidays. Twenty members have been already enrolled. It will probably be conducted by Mr. Hicks.

THE Silver-street Kindergarten Society of San Francisco reports three kindergartens with a total enrolment of 220, and a "housekeeper's class" with an enrolment of thirty girls from nine to fourteen years old. The society is now incorporated, and has planted a permanent fund looking to the abrogation of exclusive reliance in begging. The expenditures for the year were \$2,728.24, the cash on hand \$2,251.80. The leader of the society, Mrs. Wiggin, graces the annual report with one of her sprightly and vivid accounts that have brought her so much deserved success and sympathy.

Correspondence.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—In reference to the low salaries and lack of permanency in the teaching profession, I think teachers have no just cause of complaint. The popular estimate of a teacher's worth is invariably correct; and the teacher who complains of adverse criticisms and unjust or unfair usage is invariably an inferior one. Indeed I think Ontario treats her public servants with too much liberality in way of remuneration—teachers included. He is a poor teacher who cannot secure the privilege of fixing a salary commensurate with his services; and keep a position as long as it is to his advantage to do so. More hard work and less complaining should be the rule with teachers. Some we fear have made teaching "a couch on which to rest and a costume in which to promenade," instead of earning their salaries honestly by hard work. I have been a teacher for many years, and I am more than satisfied with the salary I was paid and the treatment I received at the hands of the public; indeed both were much better than I deserved; and I will just add that I have never seen a bad boy or girl in school. Yours etc.

Washburn, May, 1886.

J. ROSS.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY.

SIR,—In your issue of May 13th, you touch on a question of vital importance, viz., teachers' salaries. Why are teachers not more liberally paid? In my opinion it is because their efforts are not sufficiently appreciated. The trustees on whom they must rely for their remuneration are in many cases totally unfit to judge a teacher's work; consequently unfit to say what salary he shall receive. Duty to keep down the salaries seems to be the chief duty of the average trustee. Under our present trustee system teachers may look for fair play (and fair pay) but will look in vain.

Another reason our salaries are so low is the pernicious practice of making the teaching profession a stepping-stone to "something higher." This could easily be remedied by raising the standard of qualification, and by making each teacher serve his apprenticeship under the supervision of the principal; of course this arrangement would not suit those who would wish to teach only a few years and then go at "something higher," but it would be beneficial to the teaching profession.

Yours, etc.,

PEDAGOGUE.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—The school law has always been looked upon as so flexible that it may be obeyed or disobeyed at convenience. But there is one clause in the Act which the teachers at least and especially those teachers who have the good of the profession really at heart, cannot afford to have on the Statute Book without its being enforced—I refer to that clause which provides that teachers' salaries must be paid quarterly.

This law ought either to be strictly enforced or else repealed. For if not enforced it will only aid in doing what is being done in other ways—in driving the best teachers out of the profession. Teachers, having a patriotism for their profession, will, upon principle, when engaging, insist upon having at least all the privileges the law allows them, but they will always find that there are others willing to take less than this. For the latter class this clause of the Act is nothing more than a piece of ready-made underbidding.

I am at a loss to know why this clause should not be enforced, or why vagrant teachers should be allowed to oust their betters out of the profession by concocting with trustees to put a premium on breaking the law. There is the less excuse for not enforcing the law because the grievance of paying teachers quarterly (if it be a grievance) would not be a standing one. The habit once formed, no grievance would be felt.

ANOTHER TEACHER FROM THE COUNTY OF PEEL.

Summer Shorthand Class.

With the consent of the Hon. the Minister of Education, the undersigned will conduct a Shorthand Class in the Education Department concurrently with the sessions of the Botany Class in July. For particulars address,

THOS. BENGOUGH,

Shorthand Institute, Public Library Building, Toronto.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,

TORONTO, 29th April, 1886.

SIR,—I have been informed that many High School Masters and Assistants would gladly avail themselves of a course of lessons in Botany during the summer vacation, provided arrangements were made by the Education Department for that purpose.

It has occurred to me that a series of lectures by some competent teacher each forenoon for three weeks, with field work in the afternoons, would be such a happy combination of both theory and practice as would secure the best results, and at the same time prove the least irksome to many who could not very well dispense with the relaxation which the summer vacation is intended to provide. The lectures would be given in the Public Hall of the Education Department by Mr. Spotton, M.A., and the field work directed according to his instructions.

As it is desirable to ascertain the number likely to take this course in order to complete arrangements, would you kindly let me know, at your earliest convenience, how many of your staff are prepared to join this class.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. ROSS.

CIRCULAR TO PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,

TORONTO, May 1st, 1886.

SIR,—The Drawing Classes conducted at the Education Department, Toronto, during the last two summers will not be continued during the current year. It is nevertheless desirable in order still further to qualify teachers in this subject, that facilities of some kind should be offered for their self-improvement. Instead of the classes formerly taught at the Department it is now proposed to give a grant to each Inspectoral Division in which a class is formed for instruction in elementary drawing.

The conditions on which such classes may be formed are:—

1. The class must consist of at least ten persons holding a Public School Teacher's Certificate.
2. The teacher in charge must possess a legal certificate to teach drawing; or be approved of by the Education Department.
3. At least 30 lessons of two hours each must be given.
4. Teachers who attend this course will be allowed to write at the Departmental Examination in Drawing in April, 1887.
5. The Primary Drawing Course only shall be taught.
6. A grant of \$20 will be made for each class of ten pupils, but only one class will be paid for in any Inspectoral Division.

Will you be good enough to inform the teachers of your Inspectorate of these proposals in order that they may make the necessary arrangements for organizing classes.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. ROSS.

Minister of Education.