

Educational Notes and News.

There are in the United States about 400 colleges and universities, employing nearly 4,000 professors, and having nearly 40,000 students, and about the same number of students in the preparatory departments.

The school hours are:—In Holland, from 9 to 12, and 2 to 4, with Wednesday and Saturday half holidays, leaving 26 hours' teaching. In Saxony, there are four hours in the morning—from 7 to 11 in summer, and 8 to 12 in winter; and two hours in the afternoon—2 to 4; with two half holidays; leaving 32 hours. But no teacher works so long. In the higher schools in Leipzig, the maximum time is 22 hours. In the Elementary schools, upper and lower, it is 26. Though the schools are in session 32 hours per week, the younger children have much less. In Berlin the school hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., that is, five hours daily, with two short pauses of fifteen minutes each, at 10 and 12 o'clock, and at 1 o'clock all work is done; that gives 30 hours weekly, and in addition each class may have two hours' drill or one afternoon in the week, but this is given by the special drill master.

In Holland there is a certified assistant for every 45 children. In the higher elementary schools one assistant is allowed for every 25 pupils. In Saxony the staff is reckoned at one for 50; but the general sizes of classes is 28, 30, 32, 36, 40, 44, 48, &c. In Prussia, Hanover, and Rhenish Prussia the classes are considerably larger, the average number being about sixty. Of the 206 classes into which the children of the elementary schools of Dusseldorf are arranged, 11 have from 80 to 90 children, 67 from 70 to 80, 64 from 60 to 70, and only 2 below 30.

Howard University, at Washington, has just graduated 29 young men from its medical department, 10 of whom were colored. It has 50 students this year in its Theological Department, two of whom are white, and the remainder colored.

An entertainment was held in the school house, Scarboro village, on Wednesday the 15th inst., and proved a great success. Mr. Bean, teacher, acted as chairman, and in an opening speech stated that the object of the entertainment was to obtain mottoes and flowers for the decoration of the school. Miss Minnie Jackson presided at the instrument and Miss Fannie Chester led the choir. The recitations by the scholars and readings by the teacher were highly appreciated by the audience and often encored. Although the children taking part in the tableaux were quite young, they performed their parts well and reflected great credit on themselves and teacher. Mr. Jackson, by special request gave a song in his usual fine style. The proceeds amounted to \$15.50.—*Com.*

Mr. J. E. Tom, of the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute staff, follows his former chief, Mr. J. E. Wetherell, to Stratroy, where he takes the position of science master at a salary of \$900.

High Schools—Midsummer Examinations.—The following circular has been issued from the Education Department:—The examinations for admission to high schools at midsummer will be held this year on Thursday and Friday, 2nd and 3rd of July. The examination in the non-professional subjects for third and second class teachers will begin on Monday, 6th of July. For first class, grade C, on Wednesday, 15th of July; for grades A and B, on Thursday, 23rd of July. The professional examination for first class will be held on Wednesday, 22nd of July.

Miss Helen Reynolds, of Mt. Forest, carried off the first scholarship in the Women's Medical College, Kingston, and Miss Oliver, of Kingston, takes the second. They graduate this year. *Shelburne Free Press.*

Mr. Munroe, teacher, who took charge of the Flesherton public school a few months ago, has resigned his position. Mr. Casper Sproule takes the situation.—*Shelburne Free Press.*

AN EYE PUT OUT.—At a meeting of the High School Board held on Monday last, a letter from Mr. John Aikens was read claiming damages for the loss of his son's eye, which occurred in the school some time ago. It will be remembered that during the recess a boy placed a gun cap on one of the stoves, which another lad struck, a piece of it flying, and striking young Aikens in the eye, resulting in the destruction of the sight. The chairman produced written legal advice, which said the members of the Board were not responsible, either in their public or private capacity, as the occurrence was purely accidental. On motion of A. Dent, seconded by R. Francis, a resolution was unanimously passed refusing to acknowledge the claim, and expressing sympathy for Mr. Aikens. Mr.

Elliott, head master, was present, and described how the accident occurred. He was informed that no blame whatever was attached to either himself or his assistant, as it happened during recess, and was a boy's trick, and took place in his absence from the room. Several small accounts passed, and meeting adjourned.—*Mitchell Advocate.*

School Inspector Brown and Daughter started for Oswego, N. Y., on Monday, with the intention of spending a little time in noting methods and appliances in the Kindergarten Schools in connection with the State Normal School in Oswego. Miss Brown has charge of the Primary Division of the Morrisburg Public School, and she proposes to introduce such features of the Kindergarten as may be practicable, the School Board, with commendable public spirit having given her leave of absence with that end in view.—*Dundas County Herald.*

Following is the Circular recently issued by the Minister of Education.

Toronto, April 16, 1885.

SIR.—From reports made to me from time to time, as well as from personal observation, it appears that in the majority of cases very little attention is paid to the improvement of school grounds and premises. Notably there appears to be an almost utter absence of shade and ornamental trees, very few walks and flower beds, and only here and there a well-kept lawn and shrubbery. I need not point out that the effect of such a state of things is necessarily injurious not only from a sanitary point of view, but educationally. From a sanitary point of view it is well known that shrubbery absorbs the poisonous gases and effluvia too often prevalent around school-houses. Educationally, it needs no argument to show that the more attractive you make the school-house and its surroundings, the more interest will you arouse in both parents and pupils.

Order, neatness, cleanliness and system, should form part of every child's education, both inside and outside of the school-room. The education of the school-yard is in many respects quite as important as the education of the school-room. Refinement can be cultivated in the arrangement of the school-grounds just as well as through books and problems.

In order thus to furnish an occasion for making a special effort for improving the school premises and planting suitable shade and ornamental trees and shrubbery, I hereby proclaim Friday, the 8th day of May, a holiday in every rural village school, to be known as Arbor Day, subject to the approval of the Trustees. The programme for the day should be somewhat as follows:—

1. Arrangements should be made during the forenoon for leveling the school grounds properly, laying out walks to the rear and front, and making such walks passable by means of gravel or plank.
2. Where the soil is suitable, a few flower-beds might be laid out, or a part of the ground sodded, or seeded down with lawn grass seed.
3. In the afternoon the trees selected for ornament or shade should be carefully planted in the presence of the pupils. Soft and hard maples, elms, basswoods, walnuts, butternuts, birches, chestnuts, or other deciduous trees, are preferable for purposes of shade. Spaces might be left for the evergreens, which should not be planted before the first week in June.
4. On the following Friday afternoon the teacher might spend an hour with his pupils discussing Canadian forestry and the different species of trees and shrubs to be found in Ontario, their uses, commercial value, characteristic, etc. Many excellent literary allusions also might be made in connection with this lesson. After the grounds are laid out and the trees planted the teacher should see that some care is exercised in preserving them from injury. If the pupils are made partner in the improvements, and their co-operation secured in every part of the work of the day, there need be little fear they will wantonly destroy that which their own labor created.

Will you kindly communicate with trustees and teachers, and urge upon them the propriety of carrying out as far as possible the views of the Department. I shall be glad also to have a report from you as to the number of trees planted and the general result of local efforts on this our first Arbor Day.

GEORGE W. ROSS, Minister of Education.

In remarkable contrast to the neglect shown by the Russian Government towards elementary education is the anxiety which it has displayed to establish efficient technical schools. For the purpose of encouraging mechanical and manufacturing skill, neither energy nor money has been spared. It seems to be the great ambition of