

tion at the liberal action of the Government in granting Dr. Ryerson his full salary, as a retiring allowance—an act at once graceful and just, as Dr. Ryerson has, by his long and faithful services, not only earned such recognition; but the country by availing itself of the many improvements introduced into our school system by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, must not only receive value for the amount paid, but will feel that justice has been done to an old and faithful servant. That a copy of this resolution be suitably engrossed and forwarded to Dr. Ryerson.”

To this Address the Rev. Dr. Ryerson has returned the following reply:—

“Absence from the city prevented me from making an immediate acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, transmitting two resolutions of the Ottawa City Board of Public School Trustees, beautifully engrossed, in which they express their generous sense of my long services as Chief Superintendent of Education, and their gratification at the liberal allowance made by the Legislature for my support in old age—I having applied, in some form, in the service of the country, whatever the country has allowed me, as well as my time and strength. I have ever had faith in my country, that if I devoted my all to its service it would not leave me with diminished means of support and usefulness when age should compel me to retire from my official duties. I thank, in my inmost heart, the Ottawa City Board of School Trustees for their very kind expressions of feeling in regard to my past labours, and the circumstances under which I have been permitted to retire from them.

“The Ottawa City Board was the first City Board of School Trustees of the Province which nobly resolved not to employ any other than regularly trained teachers in the schools under their charge, and I hope they will continue to be a Model School Board to their country, and be completely successful in their Christian and patriotic work.”

The annual closing exercises of the Ontario School of Agriculture took place on the 30th ult. The classes were put through a course of examination in different branches of study by the Professors of the College and Mr. Smith, who conducted the examination in the veterinary department. At the close, prizes were distributed to the successful candidates in each branch. The examination was very satisfactory, and all present spoke in the highest terms of the efficiency of the staff in connection with the institution. Hon. S. C. Wood presided, and Mr. McKellar distributed the prizes. Addresses were made by Messrs. Wood, McKellar, White, Melvin, Smith, Swinford, Murton, Tytler, Rev. W. S. Ball, and others. At the close a substantial cold collation was partaken of by all present. The whole affair passed off most pleasantly.

SCHOOLS IN ALGOMA.—A correspondent of the *Algoma Pioneer*, writing from the Township of McDonald, says:—“We have made pretty fair progress this winter in making clearings; our new settlers are pushing ahead manfully; and we hope the day is not far distant when our children will enjoy the benefits of schools, which are very much required. We are anxiously looking for the opening up of the Township of Laird, as there are a large number of intending settlers anxious to settle in it.”

VI. Miscellaneous Communications.

1. TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARDS.

To the Editor of the Brantford Courier:

DEAR SIR.—The Provincial Legislature has been engaged at different intervals during the last few years in the amendment of the School Law, and it is generally conceded that they have been successful in promoting the interests of education by the judicious alterations they have made. But, for some reasons not easily understood, no improvement has been made in law so far as relates to the election of Trustees. If it is necessary to have competent teachers to conduct our schools, it is also necessary to have competent persons to superintend and inspect these schools. It is not sufficient to have inspectors of high qualifications appointed, whose duty it is to inspect each school twice a year. The efficiency and advancement of our schools depend as much upon local inspection and supervision as upon the semi-annual visits of the county inspector. But it is a notorious fact that a very large proportion of those who are specially charged with the duty of looking after the management of our schools are totally unfit to examine a single class, and therefore unfit to fill the office of trustees. Men so des-

titute of the literary qualifications which are so essential to a proper understanding and discharge of their responsible duties, cannot be expected to do much for the advancement of the cause of education in the schools over which they preside. The only qualifications needful under the present regulations are friendship and relationship. If an individual aspiring to the office of trustee has only a sufficient number of relations and intimate acquaintances, he has all that is deemed essential to enable him to preside over the educational affairs of his community. That a great number of those filling positions of great responsibility are wanting in literary attainments cannot be denied. Though all this and much more may be conceded and even deplored by the intelligent and educated portion of the community, yet it is acknowledged that almost insuperable difficulties are in the way of appointing men having the necessary literary attainment. In rural districts, however, much good might be done by the formation of Township Boards. With a Township Board composed of five members and elected by the whole township there is a far greater probability that men of some literary qualification would be elected as trustees, for petty family influence would not be likely to secure the election of some relative or favourite. If the establishment of a Township Board in the Township of Brantford would secure the election of more competent trustees, a commendable step in advance would have been taken.

OBSERVER.

2. WORKING OF TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARDS.

To the Editor of the Huron Expositor.

SIR,—In your issue of the 4th inst., a correspondent asks for some information respecting the working of Township School Boards and the manner in which they are conducted. Tuckersmith being the only municipality within this County in which the system has been tested, other townships are, no doubt, eagerly watching its success or failure with some degree of anxiety, and as the information your correspondent asks for will, I think, prove interesting to a number of the readers of *The Expositor*, I may perhaps be allowed sufficient space in your columns to review the matter as briefly as possible.

There is no question so prominently pressed on the attention of the people in which a greater diversity or greater animosity exists than that of education—unanimity as to its value and importance, and diversity as to the best mode of its application to the varied wants of the people. This feeling existed, at least, in Tuckersmith for many years, and notwithstanding the successive efforts of Council Boards at different periods to reconstruct old sections and form new ones, dissatisfaction and new difficulties would spring up as unexpectedly as the eruptions of a volcano. Whether this resulted from the peculiar construction of the township, or from causes inherent in the system of school sections, or from both, is a question which few people undertake positively to answer. It is no wonder, therefore, if people sought a remedy for this state of things and welcomed any scheme destined to set at rest an evil which became almost intolerable. A township school board appeared to be the only legal remedy, and the question was finally submitted to and approved of by the people. According to the School Act, every township council has authority to abolish local sections, and may establish township school-boards, providing a majority of the electors in two-thirds of the sections express a desire that such sections shall be abolished, and the trustees of the sections or the County inspector is authorized to call meetings for that purpose. It also provides for the election of five trustees, and invests them with all the powers and subject to all the duties and obligations as trustees in cities and towns. It makes no provision for the payment of trustees. Provision is also made for the valuation of all the property of each section, and the Act defines the duty of the Council in this respect, who are to decide upon the report of the valuers in such manner as they may deem just and equitable. For further information I must refer your readers to the School Act, as the above is but merely an outline of its provisions. Township councils having to decide questions of this intricate nature in which perhaps a dozen of sections are concerned, require some degree of assurance, if not of ability, if they expect to give entire satisfaction. The responsibility attached to the equalization of school property and the variety of interests involved demand a thorough knowledge of the question in all its bearings, so that no injustice is done which prudence and forethought can avert. Some scheme must be adopted as a basis of adjustment, and if the best can be discovered, it should be honestly and fearlessly applied. The principle adopted in Tuckersmith may not be the best, but one thing is certain that no other has as yet been ever suggested, and very few even of those