

Notes and Comments.

MR. NEIL MCEACHREN'S salary at Massey should have read \$450, not \$440 as appeared in our issue of November 11th.

WE publish in this issue, and call attention to, portions of the last Blue Book of the Ontario Agricultural College.

MR. J. C. HARSTONE, M.A., has been appointed head master of Lindsay High School. Mr. Clarkson will probably take Mr. Harstone's vacated post.

WE learn that in a certain village in Ontario, not a hundred miles from Hamilton, a teacher is not going to remain next year, a matter of fifty dollars of salary being the only obstacle between him and the trustees. It seems a pity that the latter cannot find some way of overcoming so small a difficulty.

AT the last meeting of the Uxbridge Town Council a petition was received from the School Board asking the Council to submit a bye-law to raise \$5,000 for new high school. After hearing the representatives of the Board it was decided to submit the bye-law, which was read a first and second time, and is now being advertised.

A "TRUSTEE" writing to an Eastern paper says:—"To our way of thinking when children leave school they should be able to read well and understandingly, at sight, ordinary reading, write a letter in a neat, rapid and legible hand, and to perform any arithmetical problem they would be likely to meet in practical life. Now we assert, and we challenge contradiction, that there is not one in fifty of the young people in the county can do this. And why? Because their time was worse than thrown away in memorizing difficult geographical names, historical dates, and the technical terms of botany, chemistry, etc., together with poetry and dialogues for exhibition day, which children very wisely make all haste to forget when they leave school."

AN interesting gathering took place at the Colonial Exhibition recently, when, at the invitation of Mr. D. Tallerman, a dinner was given in the Royal Commission Dining Rooms to illustrate the food resources of the Empire. The bill of fare consisted of over thirty dishes, on which were salmon from British Columbia, shad from Prince Edward Island, mackerel from New Brunswick, cod and lobster from Nova Scotia, white-fish, trout, and pickerel, from Lake Huron, Australian rabbits, and Australian mutton and beef. Among the vegetables were Canadian beans. The sweets consisted of Fiji arrow-root puddings, Canadian farina pudding, tartlets and pastry of Canadian flour, and Canadian apple jelly. The fruits were pine-

apples from Singapore, Victorian pears, Victorian white cherries in syrup, and Canadian apples and pears. There were also Canadian cheese and butter, and Western Australian and Canadian honey.

"THE *Canadian Baptist*," says the *Week*, "finds a conclusive answer to all our misgivings as to the probable efficiency of a new local and denominational college, in the resolution of the Baptist Convention that the university powers asked for, 'are not to be exercised until the college is efficiently equipped to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.' But the same provision or something equivalent, we believe, was made in the case of London, and has been made in other cases where, nevertheless, university powers have been exercised without what we should deem the necessary equipment of a university. We do not doubt the upright intention of the framers of the resolution; what we doubt is the possibility of maintaining, with only such resources as are likely to be furnished by a single Church in this Province, such a staff and apparatus as, especially in these days of scientific education, a university absolutely requires. We know that the Baptist Church has a most magnificent benefactor in the person of Mr. McMaster, but even his generosity must have bounds. The half million given by Ezra Cornell went a very little way towards the foundation of Cornell, which, when it comes into possession of its expected ten millions, will not have a cent more than it wants. When we said that under the system of small local universities, institutions scarcely superior in equipment to a high school were sometimes invested with the power of granting degrees in all the departments of human knowledge, we were speaking of what we had actually seen on both sides of the line, and every one will surely admit that degrees so granted are impositions. The truth must be stated plainly when great interests are involved. We could not possibly be referring to the Baptist University, which is not yet in existence. Our reference was to the tendencies of the system. We do not think that we are incapable of understanding what Voluntaryism in high education means, and of political interference we have as hearty a dislike as the *Canadian Baptist* itself. But we do not think that the clergy of any denomination can be well fitted to play their part, in a highly intellectual and scientific age, by a university training of a poor or even of a kind below the highest."

DR. TASSIE, principal of the Collegiate Institute, Peterborough, died at noon on Sunday last, November the 21st. We hope in our next issue to do honour to one to whom education in Canada owes a large debt. At present we cannot do better than

reproduce an account of his death given in a Peterborough journal, the *Evening Review*:

"On Sunday morning when Dr. Tassie, principal of the Collegiate Institute, rose from his bed and partly dressed himself, he sat down in a chair as he was accustomed to do. While busy in arranging his clothing he fell forward heavily to the floor in a kind of fit. He did not, however, lose consciousness, and in a few minutes after recovered. He remained in the house during the forenoon, and at about 11 o'clock lay down on his bed. He slept till ten minutes to twelve o'clock. At waking he spoke to his sister who was sitting at his bedside, saying in a cheerful manner that he felt a great deal better. Before the clock struck twelve he was dead. The family physician, Dr. Burnham, was called, and the cause of death was pronounced to be apoplexy, brought on by an affection of the heart.

"The deceased was a man to whom educational interests in Canada owe much. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1813, and there, at Trinity College, he received his education. While still in the vigour of early manhood, being only nineteen years of age, he left home and came to Canada. He settled in Hamilton, and for a number of years was connected with educational institutions in that city. He left Hamilton to take charge of the Galt Grammar School, which institution he managed with marked ability. While in Galt, as in Peterborough, he had the education of a large number of boys under his personal supervision, and many of the prominent men of this Province look back and credit their success in life to their thorough grounding in essential subjects at Dr. Tassie's hands. His strictness of discipline, too, had the effect of grafting habits of punctuality and order on the characters of the boys under his care. Among others, the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, was one of his former pupils, and, coming to our town, Mr. John Burnham, M.P., and Dr. Burnham were among them. After twenty-eight years as principal at Galt, during which time the grammar school was raised to the status of a collegiate institute, he went to Toronto and managed a private school with much success for two years. At this time he accepted the position of Principal of the Peterborough Collegiate Institute, which position he held with credit to himself and the institute till his untimely and much lamented death.

"Since coming to Peterborough, two years ago, the deceased, by urbanity and courtly manners and impartial dealings in affairs relating to the institute, has won the respect and esteem of every member of the staff and of his pupils, as well as the approbation of the Board of Education. All who knew him deeply regret the loss of one so faithful in the discharge of duty."