

schools and there were the teachers; everything, in short except the children who ought to take advantage of it. To secure their attendance at school, the present law was defective and inadequate, and wanting both in simplicity and uniformity. Consequently some legislation was really needed on the subject. The proposal, then, which he had to make on behalf of the Government would, when it came to maturity in 1881, for it would be introduced gradually, present the following features:—The country would still be free to establish School Boards with all their existing powers; but the Agricultural Children's Act would be repealed, and Town Councils and Boards of Guardians would be empowered, on the requisition of the ratepayers, to pass bye-laws, the same as School Boards were now, for enforcing school attendance for full or half time; but they would have no authority to establish schools. Again, no person would be allowed to employ a child under ten years of age, nor from ten to fourteen years of age, without a certificate of efficiency in reading, writing, arithmetic, or of having attended school two hundred and fifty times in each of the five previous years in not more than two elementary schools. By this arrangement a child between ten and fourteen might be employed, provided it did not interfere with his efficient instruction. The Town Councils and Boards of Guardians would enforce their authority through the action of school attendance committees; but they would not be permitted to interfere with regulated industries, such as workshops and mines. In the event of the local authorities not carrying out the provisions of the Act, power would be taken by the Government to appoint an officer to see that the Act was enforced for two years, at the expiration of which time the responsibility would recur to the local authority. With regard to "wastrels," children neglected and left to wander, it would be the duty of the local authority first to warn the parent, if there were no reasonable or just excuse for keeping the child from school. In case the warning was unheeded, he would then be brought before a court of summary jurisdiction, when he might be fined 5s., and in further default the child might be committed to a School of Industry. The object was, therefore, to put the whole responsibility for the children in the hands of the local authorities, who would have to carry out the measure and the Industrial Schools Act. Referring next to the case of poor districts, Lord Sandon defined these as districts in which a threepenny rate produced less than 6s. per child; and in such cases he proposed that the parliamentary grant might extend to double the school fees, rates, and subscriptions. The Bill would also deal with the subject of bye-elections to School Boards, and, following the precedent of the Scotch Act, would empower the School Board itself to fill up an occasional vacancy. After describing other subsidiary proposals Lord Sandon commended his measure to the approval of the House, as being at once cautious and bold, comprehensive and straightforward; and expressed a fervent hope that it would be successful in putting the coping-stone on the great work of national elementary education.

### 3. COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

England has 3,250,000 children that should be at school. Of these but 1,850,000 are under instruction, leaving 1,400,000 to be otherwise accounted for. This state of affairs in the educational world there is to be deplored, and was sufficient to justify the Government in bringing down a compulsory measure, intended to remedy the evil. Whether the details of the Bill will be sound in their principle and effective in their working remains to be seen, but they will doubtless provoke great discussion in the country as well as in Parliament. If the State has one duty more than another incumbent upon it, it is that of educating its people; and if it cannot be accomplished by moral suasion being brought to bear on the refractory parents and children, it should be by a little of the good old doctrine of compulsion. In England, as Lord Sandon said upon introducing the Bill, they have the schools and the teachers, but the children are wanting. It was proposed to supply them, by enforced attendance, by a system which will gradually come into effect until 1881, when it will be complete. Great powers are to be entrusted to the local authorities, who, by bye-laws, may compel the resident children to go to school either upon full or half time. No person would be permitted to employ a child between ten and fourteen years of age, unless it could produce a certificate of efficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic, or of having attended some elementary school 250 times per annum in the five preceding years of its life. Where the local authorities are careless in the discharge of, or oblivious to their duties, a Government inspector is to be employed for two years in strictly enforcing the Act, when the power is to revert to the local Boards. The Bill has many details, of no great importance in this country, but, before dropping the subject, it may be well to remark that some of its best features are borrowed from the Scotch laws.—*Hamilton Times*.

## VI. Departmental Notices.

### 1. MIDSUMMER VACATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In view of the examination of candidates for Teachers' certificates occurring this year on the 10th July, and following days, and for other considerations, the Hon. the Minister of Education has decided to authorize the closing of the Public Schools for vacation on Friday, 7th July, instead of on the 15th.

### 3. EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATES AS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Under the regulations for the examinations, Monday, the 10th day of July, has been appointed by the Minister of Education for the commencement of the examinations of teachers for the current year, for certificates of the first, second and third class.

## VII. Advertisements.

### St. Catharines' Collegiate Institute.

HEAD MASTER.—John Seath, B. A., Queen's, Ireland.

TEACHING STAFF.—The Staff consists of eight experienced masters, four of whom are University Graduates, and the others hold the highest Grades of Certificates. Three are Medallists in their respective Departments.

BUILDING.—The accommodation has recently been increased and greatly improved, and each Class-room is supplied with every educational requisite. The School contains a large Laboratory furnished with the best appliances for the study of Practical Science.

COURSES OF STUDY.—Pupils obtain a thorough English, Commercial, or Classical Education, and are prepared for University Matriculation Examinations, for the Preliminary Examinations of the Law Society and Medical Council, and for Teachers' Certificates of the 1st. and 2nd Class.

After the Summer vacation new classes will be organized in all the subjects required for Teachers' Certificates. A special class will be formed for young men who wish to begin Classics, and to advance more rapidly in their studies than they would in the Lower School.

FEES.—School free to those who have passed the "Intermediate." Fee for others \$3. a term.

BOARD.—Board may be obtained at \$2.75 and \$3 a week in private families and in boarding-houses connected with the Institute. For Prospectus address the Head-master.

June 21st, 1876, St. Catharines.

### Free Public School Library Card.

A NEW and beautiful Chromo-Lithographic Library Card has just been prepared by the Education Department, for the Public School Libraries of the Province. It is 22 inches by 14 inches, is printed in gold and colours and presents two pleasing views of school life, viz: the distribution of Library books to the scholars, and the meeting of the children outside the School-House door after the distribution is over.

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