

the denominations should form a geometrical series ; but there have been many advocates of the duodecimal rather than the decimal scale, as admitting of a greater number of subdivisions. On this point it is urged that the decimal notation is naturally employed by all mankind in common arithmetic and that the employment of the same scale in commercial tables furnishes a most valuable harmony, not to be attained by any other way ; one of the great excellencies of the decimal system being, that not only are the relations of the several denominations simplified to the greatest possible extent by this uniformity of ratio, but all calculations relating to concrete quantities can be effected by the operations of pure arithmetic.

In striking contrast with this admirable simplicity is the complex arrangement of the many tables with which our text-books are crowded. So great is the difficulty found in fixing these in the memory of children, that an opponent of the Metric System, himself a teacher of some eminence, gravely propounded the theory, that it would be better to defer the learning of tables until the pupil's entrance upon office work, when he would soon learn by necessity and practice the special table required for his particular business. This ingenious writer cuts the Gordian knot by deciding that the boys should not be bothered at school by toiling through these very tables, which will afterwards come to him with such rapidity and ease when they are wanted ; but he does not tell us where to find men of business willing to give office-room to boys trained on this principle. Let us take a rapid survey of the chaos of names and factors we are at present compelled to employ, that we may the better judge of the reasons which have tempted him, and perhaps many others, thus to put off the evil day. We shall find two sections wherein we can at least classify the difficulties here presented ; the first including those relating to variety of multipliers ; the second, those arising from the use of different measures bearing identical names. Thus, in the first place, supposing the pupil commits to memory only the most common tables, those of Long Measure, Avoirdupois Weight, and Troy Weight, he encounters in these the five prime numbers, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, in various and irregular combinations, in connection with which no reason whatever can be assigned, or association suggested, which will fix their relations in his memory. Analysing the table of Long Measure, we find (omitting the obsolete barleycorn) the first multiplier 12 ($2^2 \times 3$), then 3, then $5\frac{1}{2}$ ($2^2 \times 5$), then 40 ($2^3 \times 5$), then (8×2^3). Troy Weight gives ($2^3 \times 3$), then ($2^2 \times 5$), then ($2^2 \times 3$). Avoirdupois Weight has (2^4) twice, then ($2^2 \times 7$), then (2^2), then ($2^2 \times 5$). Turning to measures of capacity, we find Liquid Measure occupying two tables, that for wine and that for malt liquors. The former gives the factors 2^2 , 2, 2^2 , up to the gallon, after which we have 63 ($3^2 \times 7$), making the hogshead. Between these come the anker of 10 gallons, the runlet of 18, and the tierce of 42. In ale measure there seems a nearer approach to regularity ; and dry measure is the most regular of all, being almost purely binary. Wool Weight furnishes another prime number, 13 ; so that, oddly enough, whether by accident or design, our system includes the first 6 of the series of primes. These examples show, to a small extent, how vain it is to attempt fixing our present denominations in the minds of the young by any process beyond that of learning by rote. In order to save time, I have chosen only the tables most widely used, omitting several which it is generally considered expedient to teach to beginners. Even in these it will be seen that there is a measure of one capacity, 36 gallons, bearing two names, runlet and kilderkin ; and a name, hogshead, given to two different measures, of 63 and 54 gallons respectively.

(To be continued...)

OFFICIAL NOTICES.



APPOINTMENTS

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 15th December, 1866, to make the following appointments of School Commissioners :

County of Gaspé—Douglasstown : Rev. Mr. Winter.

County of Two Mountains—St. Joseph du Lac : Mr. Jean-Marie Dargon dit Lafrance, fils.

County of Temiscouata—Trois Pistoles, No. 1 : Rev. Jean-Baptiste Gagnon, Priest.

County of Dorchester—Ste. Marguerite. Messrs. Jean-Baptiste Drouin and Pierre Mabon.

County of Maskinongé—St. Paulin. Mr. Jean-Baptiste Lafond, père.

County of Wolfe—South Ham. Messrs. Samuel Porter, William Thompson, Jr., Joseph McKay, Joseph Dion, and François-Xavier Robitaille.

County of Champlain—St. Luc. Mr. Olivier Frigon.

County of Lotbinière—Ste. Emélie. Mr. Victor Beaudet.

County of L'Islet—St. Roch des Aulnets. Mr. Pierre Pelletier (fils de Jean-Baptiste Pelletier), Jean-François Pelletier, Michel Caron, Edouard Pelletier and Germain Pelletier.

County of Joliette—St. Côme. Messrs. Elie Brault, Joseph Mirault, Jules Gaudet, François-Xavier Landreville and Jules Fafard.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 20th December, 1866, to make the following appointment of School Commissioners :

County of Temiscouata—St. Jean de Dieu : Rev. François-Xavier Guay and Messrs. Thomas Rioux, Joseph Boucher, Cyrien Couturier, and Thomas Côté.

TRUSTEES OF DISSIDENT SCHOOLS.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government was pleased, on the 13th December, 1866, to make the following appointment of a Trustee of Dissident Schools :

County of Shefford—Granby : Mr. William Farley.

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council was pleased, on the 15th December, 1866, to make the following appointment of Trustees of Dissident Schools :

County of Napierville—Napierville. Messrs. Louis Marceau, James Manning and John York.

DIPLOMAS GRANTED BY BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF RIMOUSKI.

1st Class Elementary, F.—Luc Montreuil and Mathildée Michaud.

2nd Class Elementary, F.—Virginie Anctil, Obeline Côté, Joséphine Gaudreau and Henriette Pelletier.

November, 1866.

P. G. DUMAS,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ATYLER.

1st Class Elementary, F.—Stéphanie Hotte, Catherine O'Neil, Christopher Draffin and Joseph Stassardt.

November, 1866.

JOHN R. WOODS,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SHERBROOKE.

1st Class Model School, E & F.—Elise Larivière.

1st Class Elementary, E & F.—Agnes Blondin, E.—Belinda Ross, Sarah C. Rankin and Joseph A. Rankin.

2nd Class Elementary, E & F.—Fanny E. Lindsay, E.—Betsey J. Wilder.

November, 1866.

S. A. HIRD,
Secretary.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF RICHMOND.

1st Class Elementary, E.—Janet Dickson Main, Sarah Maria Main, Nancy Webb, Adeline Emerson Stevens, Sarah Johnston, Sylvia Ann Taylor, Rose Malvena Morrill, Huldah Emma Morrill : F.—Adelphine Robidon, Adelphine Descôteau, Carmel Pothier, Marie Delvina Morin and Marie Dargis.

November, 1866.

J. H. GRAHAM,
Secretary.

BOARD OF PROTESTANT EXAMINERS OF MONTREAL.

1st Class Model School, E.—Mary Hardgrave Walsh.

1st Class Elementary, E.—Jane Ann McFee, Harriet McGarry, Margaret Rodger, Mary Sommerville and Charles H. Sawyer.

November, 1866.

T. A. GINSON,
Secretary.

BOARD OF CATHOLIC EXAMINERS OF MONTREAL.

1st Class Elementary, F.—Justine Bélanger, Philomène Cheneet, Azilda Demers, Virginie Desilets, Arthémise Drouin, Eliza Dufresne, Caroline