

partment of the Interior at Ottawa, in trust for the different bands or tribes of Indians, under the provisions of an Act of the former Province of Canada. Application to purchase should be made by the School Trustees to the Department at Ottawa."

#### 6. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, COUNTY OF DUNDAS.

The Deputy Minister and W. R. Bigg, Esq., Public School Inspector No. 1, Leeds, were appointed by the Hon. the Minister of Education, as a Commission of Inquiry into certain charges, respecting irregularities in the conduct of Examinations of Teachers, against the Rev. W. Fergusson, M.A., Inspector County Dundas, and W. A. Whitney, Esq., M.A., an Examiner in that County. Of the investigation the *Dundas County Herald* says:—

"The Commission appointed by the Minister of Education, consisting of Dr. Hodgins, the Deputy Minister of Education, and W. R. Bigg, Esq., Public School Inspector No. 1, Leeds, to investigate the charges preferred by Mr. A. Loucks, Teacher, against Rev. W. Fergusson, M.A., Public School Inspector of the County of Dundas, and W. A. Whitney, Esq., M.A., Examiner, met in the town hall, Morrisburgh, Tuesday forenoon. The Commissioners discharged their unpleasant duty in a manner that won the respect and admiration of all concerned. The affability and courteousness of Dr. Hodgins, his earnest endeavour to get at all the facts of the case, and at the same time eliminate extraneous matters, and to prevent personalities or the imputations of ill motives being imported into the investigation, were very highly spoken of by all present. The facts adduced were of an unexpected and unusual character—that the evidence clearly established the truth of what had been charged in these columns better than a year ago. It was conclusively shown that the third class arithmetic and algebra papers were opened before the proper time, and in the hands of some of the candidates, and the information thus obtained communicated to other candidates."

The evidence and proceedings in this case will be published in the *Journal of Education*.

## II. 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.

### 2. COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

The next Entrance Examinations will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th days of June, 1876.

Any Candidate who fails at the above-mentioned or at any subsequent Examination, to obtain one-third of the marks in any subject will not be considered by the High School Inspectors to have shown that "competent knowledge" of the subject which the law requires, notwithstanding his having gained 50% of the total. (See Regulations for the Admission of Pupils.)

In order to prevent any misunderstanding of the intention of the Regulations, Local Examiners are hereby reminded that the object of the Examinations is to prevent unqualified Pupils from entering the High Schools, and that in fixing a minimum of fifty per cent. of the total marks assigned, it is not expected that the Local Boards will divest themselves of their judgment or the power to exclude candidates who make a total failure in the fundamental subjects of Primary Education. Candidates should give notice at once of their intention to attend.

### 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 Educa-

tion for the commencement of the examinations of teachers for the current year, for certificates of the first, second and third class.

### 4. THIRD-CLASS TEACHERS' LENGTH OF SERVICE.

A practice neither contemplated nor authorized by law has sprung up in certain High Schools, to which the attention of Public School Inspectors is specially called. The regulations provide that "a Teacher holding a third-class certificate may be eligible, in less than three years for examination for a second-class certificate on the special recommendation of his County Inspector." The intention of this regulation was that when an Inspector in visiting Schools found that a Teacher in actual service, holding a third-class certificate was really an efficient Teacher, and competent to govern a School well, such Teacher might be permitted before the three years' probation had expired, to prepare himself for examination for a higher grade. It was also designed to meet the special cases of Teachers of some experience coming from other countries, to whom a three years' probation as third-class teachers would be an unnecessary hardship. In these two classes of cases alone were Inspectors authorized to exercise a wise discretion and to permit such Teachers to compete for a higher rank in their profession in Ontario, before the expiration of the three years' probation fixed by the regulations.

In some cases, however, which have come under the notice of the Department, Inspectors have not acted on this view of the case, but have allowed pupils of High Schools holding third-class certificates to compete for second-class certificates, apparently on account of what additional literary qualifications they may have been able to acquire during a brief attendance at such a High School. Sometimes such pupils have been permitted to act as monitors for a short time, &c.

The rule to be observed in future in all these cases, must be that none but third-class teachers in *actual service*, of the required age, and who evince in their Schools special *aptitude for teaching and government*, shall be eligible for recommendation by Inspectors for second-class certificates, before the expiration of their three years' probation.

### 5. REMITTANCES BY INSPECTORS AND TRUSTEES TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Persons having to make remittances to the Education Department of Ontario, will please send the same, if to the amount of \$50 or over, through an agency of the Bank of Commerce, or the Bank of Montreal, if there be one in the neighbourhood. The amount can be deposited at the agency to the credit of the Minister of Education, and the duplicate bank receipt enclosed with the letter of advice to the Education Department. Small amounts should be sent by P. O. Order.

All money letters to the Department should be registered.

### 6. STATUTE LABOUR BY TEACHERS.

Teachers frequently write to the Department, remonstrating against their being required to perform Statute Labour, or to pay any equivalent for it. As the obligation arises under the Assessment, and not under the School Law, the Department has no jurisdiction in the matter, and cannot therefore interfere in it.

### 7. LISTS OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

Application for lists of Teachers and Schools has frequently been made to the Education Department and to the Inspectors. The objects are sometimes good ones, although not always, for circulars of a pernicious character have now and then been circulated among the Teachers, many of whom are young men and women. The applications have therefore without exception been declined, as it would be difficult and undesirable to make exceptions in favour of some and not of others.