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*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.
Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario
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Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.
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The Publishers frequently receive letters from their friends complaining of the non-receipt of the JOURNAL. In explanation they would state, as subscriptions are necessarily payable in advance, the mailing clerks have instructions to discontinue the paper when a subscription expires. The clerks are, of course, unable to make any distinction in a list containing names from all parts of the United States and Canada.

EDUCATIONAL WORK FOR THE COMING SESSION.

There are several important questions with which the Minister of Education should deal during the next Session of the Ontario Legislature. Among them are the following :

I.—THE 29TH CLAUSE.

The 29th Clause of the Amended School Law of 1879 never could have had a place on the Statute book, and it not been for a total misunderstanding of the relationship existing between the Trustee Boards and the Councils in cities and towns. These bodies are essentially distinct. Each is elected for a specific purpose. Each has the supervision of certain public work, the proper management of which requires a certain amount of public money. Originally each body collected its own money, and the one had no connection with the other. It was soon evident that this was an expensive method of raising the money needed, as it required two sets of collectors to do the work which one could do equally well, and so in order to save expense it was provided, that the tax collectors of the municipal councils should collect the money required by the School Boards. This gave the councils no responsibility concerning the amount needed for school purposes, and consequently gave them no right to exercise any control in relation to it. The School Boards had just as much right to limit the Councils, as had the Councils to limit the School Boards in raising the funds necessary for the proper carrying on of their work.

In process of time, however, some Councils forgot that they were merely requested to raise the amount needed by the School Boards in order to prevent expense, and began to claim the right to control the expenditure of the School Boards. Unfortunately, the Minister of Education and the Legislature hastily granted the demands made, and the School Boards in cities and towns are now merely sub-committees of the Councils without the privilege of a voice in settling even their own affairs at the general Council Board. The insult thus offered to

the School Boards throughout the Province was none the less real, because those who gave it did not comprehend its full extent.

There can be absolutely no justification for the clause either where no accommodation at all has been provided, or where the accommodation is insufficient. In both these cases it is clearly at variance with the clause requiring the municipality to provide adequate accommodation for the children of school age. It is certainly a remarkable fact that the same school law which makes Trustees personally responsible to the ratepayers whose children can not get school accommodation, also gives other men the power to prevent them providing accommodation when necessary.

If it is claimed that Councils are responsible to the ratepayers for the money, there are two ways of removing this objection. The school rate may be inserted separately on the tax bills, or the old plan may be adopted of allowing the Trustees to collect as well as levy their own rates.

It is not necessary that the evil effects of the clause should be explained. They have been felt throughout the length and breadth of the Province. Resolutions calling for its repeal have been passed unanimously by the Inspectors, and by the Provincial Teachers' Association. If it had passed a few years earlier the schools of the country would have been paralyzed to a much greater extent than is possible now, but there is yet time for it to do incalculable evil unless it is repealed.

II.—SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

When a certain class of men in total forgetfulness of their children's best interests, and with the single aim of getting more work out of the teacher, urged the shortening of the summer holidays, they were warned by the intelligent medical men in the Legislature that the results of confining their children in close school-rooms during the warm weather must be injurious. The Minister of Education, however, in order to avoid a wide agitation on the subject, made the shortening of the holidays optional, and promised that the option would be taken away in case only a few sections availed themselves of it. We are not among those who would advocate the repeal of the amendment, because only a small number of schools were kept open for a portion of the regular vacation. The larger the number of School Boards in favor of short holidays, the sooner should the power to shorten them be removed. If the people were all intelligent such a law would do no harm. However the wings of ignorance and greed should be clipped, and we hope Mr. Crooks will deal with this question at once.

It might be wise to allow School Boards some option as to the exact time for closing the schools for holidays. In sections where hops or berries are grown largely, nearly all the children in the districts are required to gather them in their season, and in such cases the schools might well be closed for a couple of weeks, and the summer holidays shortened by that time.