

# THE NEW BRUNSWICK JOURNAL of EDUCATION.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF TEACHERS.

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## New Brunswick Journal of Education.

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Will those who have not paid their subscription for the JOURNAL, kindly remember to do so in figuring up their accounts at the end of the year. Remit postage stamps if not convenient to do otherwise, but remember the cheapest and readiest way is for two to unite and send one dollar.

Inspectors and school officers in their visits to teachers can compress a vast amount of good advice in one pregnant sentence—by all means subscribe for the New Brunswick Journal of Education.

ON MANY occasions, since the advent of the JOURNAL, the proposal has been made to enlarge its sphere of usefulness, so as to include the Maritime Provinces. There is no reason why a journal published in the educational interests of the Maritime Provinces should not be successful, and tend to advance greatly these interests. Our school systems are nearly identical; there is frequently an interchange of teachers, those educated in Nova Scotia obtaining situations in the other Provinces, and vice versa. A closer contact,—the interchange of thought, method, purpose,—would stimulate teachers to a generous rivalry, and tend to remove the apathy that isolation is so likely to produce. No better means could be devised to secure these results than a live, educational journal; and the Maritime Provinces present a field for the support of such a journal. It would lead to promote a better sentiment among the teachers of these Provinces. The educational periodicals of the United States and Ontario fail to meet the wants of our teachers. An educational journal, deserving and winning support for itself in these Maritime Provinces would wield an influence that no outside journal could possibly attain. The JOURNAL, as at present conducted, its neat typographical appearance, its modest subscription price, has commended itself to the teachers of this Province so favorably that it is daily growing in their estimation, and "each number better than the last" is the expression of approval that we receive almost daily. A journal, growing in usefulness, increasing in size and in influence as its support may warrant, conducted with such ability as shall ensure generous and substantial co-operation, is certainly a possible result among educationists who have recently attracted world-wide attention by their systems of instruction and the practical results they have been able to produce.

Shortly after the initial numbers of the JOURNAL were issued, reference was made to the subject above touched upon, by influential journals in the neighboring Province. These extracts we reproduce:

The teachers of New Brunswick are to be congratulated on the publication of a cheap but very

superior periodical in their interests. It is entitled "The New Brunswick Journal of Education," published fortnightly, and edited by one of the most able and accomplished members of the profession in the Maritime Provinces, Geo. U. Hay, Ph. B., assisted by Wm. S. Carter, A. M. It costs but fifty cents a year, and is a live journal, interesting itself in the new lines of modern advance and reform in education. There is every way just as suitable a field for this periodical in Nova Scotia as in New Brunswick. Why should it not become the organ of the teaching profession in the Maritime Provinces?—*Pictou Standard*.

We have received copies of the New Brunswick Journal of Education, a paper devoted to the interests of teachers, published at St. John. We welcome this addition to our maritime literature, and wish it every success. There has for some time been felt the need of such a publication. The Ontario school journals have been largely patronized by our teachers in the past, and at present receive no small share of their support from the Lower Provinces. Notwithstanding this, however, they have devoted comparatively little attention to our educational matters. We therefore look with considerable interest and hope upon this new venture. We would suggest that no narrow provincialism prevent this journal from reaching out and dealing with the educational interests of the other Maritime Provinces as well. One ably conducted journal should be well supported in the Provinces, whereas a less extensive territory would be insufficient. Why should not the journal be termed the "Journal of Education for the Maritime Provinces," and extend its mission? The management is in able hands, Messrs G. U. Hay, Ph. B., and Wm. S. Carter, A. M., being the editors.—*The New Star*.

### ELECTIVE CITY SCHOOL BOARDS.

The *Evening Standard*, in an article on irresponsible bodies, makes the following remarks concerning elective school boards for cities:

We have in St. John several commissions who levy taxes on the people but who are only indirectly responsible to the people. There is the board of school trustees for instance. This body imposes direct taxes on the citizens of St. John to the amount of nearly \$60,000. The public have not the slightest control over the expenditures of this body provided their warrant does not exceed the amount specified by the Act of Assembly, and the legislature in fixing the limit of taxation dealt with a very liberal hand. At present the school trustees are appointed, part of them by the provincial government and part by the common council of the city of St. John. What right the provincial government has to appoint school trustees for the school district of St. John than for any other district in the Province has never been made clear. Is it denied that the tax payers of St. John are any less competent to select the trustees for their schools than those of some back-woods district of one of the up-river counties? The time will soon come when the electors will demand from the provincial government the right to choose the trustees of their schools by ballot as well as their aldermen. At least that part of the board now appointed by government should be made elective.

We do not agree with this view of the case, nor is it apparent that the board of school trustees, as at present constituted, is an irresponsible body. The majority of the board are appointed by the common council, which is directly responsible to the ratepayers. It is true that three of the members of the board are appointed by the government, but always on the recommendation of the city representatives, who are again directly responsible to the tax payers. At present the members of the board serve without salary. This could not be expected should the office be made elective. The

change, then, does not commend itself as a measure of economy.

In the United States, where boards of school trustees are elective, the people are crying out for a change. With every election comes a sweeping change in the teaching staff. Political influence, not merit, is the standard by which appointments are made, and the result is disastrous to the best interests of education, which should be as far removed from mere party prejudice as possible, and not subject to the fluctuations of ward elections. Teachers in this Province are not, as a rule, very active politicians, and should their positions be dependent upon their activity in this respect the service would suffer greatly. However inefficient they might become they would be perfectly secure with a little influence at their back. That is a state of affairs which we would not care to see introduced in this Province.

A DISTRICT not one hundred miles from St. John advertized for a teacher. There were thirteen applicants for the position. The Secretary on being asked how he decided on one among so many replied, "the one we selected enclosed a stamp." There is a valuable hint in this to those who will be wise enough to take it.

Persons expecting a reply to letters pertaining entirely to their own affairs should always enclose a stamp.

Probably the Inspectors suffer more than any one else in this connection, and as they have to pay their own expenses, feel it the more. Teachers apply to them from all sections of the Province for situations, but very rarely enclose stamps for replies. An application of this kind often entails much correspondence with District and teacher.

One of our Inspectors stated a short time ago that his yearly expenses for postages and stationery were one hundred dollars.

We notice that the Secretary of the Ladies Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has offered as a prize for an essay,—a very handsome diploma. The competition is open to all pupils attending the public schools in St. John and Portland in advance of grade VII.

While the object is an excellent one the time chosen for writing the essay is, we think, very inopportune, especially as far as St. John is concerned. There, in addition to the terminal examinations, the pupils attending the schools in advance of grade VIII. have just handed in essays for prizes given by the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Many parents now complain that their children are overworked, and we fear that these philanthropic ladies will unintentionally inflict cruelty on our boys and girls if the essay is required very soon. The holidays should be devoted entirely to recreation.

We would suggest that the time for handing in the essays be extended to the end of next term.

A project is on foot to found a memorial scholarship to the late Dr. Jack. It is proposed to open a subscription among the alumni and graduates of the university, and raise one thousand dollars. The object is a good one, and has our heartiest support.