

Italy, and Asia Minor; Modern Geography; North America and Europe.

Optional subjects instead of Greek.

FRENCH.

A paper on Grammar. Translation of simple sentences into French prose. Corneille, Horace, Acts I. and II.

GERMAN.

A paper on Grammar. Musæus; Stumme Liebe. Schiller, Lessing, Von der Glocke.

2. That after Hilary Term, 1877, candidates for admission as Articled Clerks (except Graduates of Universities and Students-at-Law), be required to pass a satisfactory examination in the following subjects—

- Ovid, Fasti, B. I., vv. 1-300,—or
- Virgil, Æneid, B. II., vv. 1-317.
- Arithmetic.
- Euclid, Bb. I., II., and III.
- English Grammar and Composition.
- English History—Queen Anne to George III.
- Modern Geography—North America and Europe.
- Elements of Book-keeping.

3. That a Student of any University in this Province who shall present a certificate of having passed, within four years of his application, an examination in the subjects above prescribed, shall be entitled to admission as a Student-at-Law or Articled Clerk, (as the case may be) upon giving the prescribed notice and paying the prescribed fee.

4. That all examinations of Students-at-Law and Articled Clerks be conducted before the Committee on Legal Education, or before a Special Committee appointed by Convocation.

THOMAS HODGINS,
Chairman.

OSGOODE HALL, Trinity Term, 1876.
Adopted by the Benchers in Convocation, August 29, 1876.

J. HILLYARD CAMERON,
Treasurer.

2. TRUANCY IN NEW YORK.

We have before us the first report of Alexander M. Stanton, Esq., Superintendent of Truancy of the city of New York. The office of Superintendent of Truancy was established by the Board of Education, for the purpose of carrying into effect the compulsory Educational Law passed in 1874.

Mr. Stanton is assisted by eleven regular agents, whose duty it is to hunt up the truants in their respective districts and return them to school. When other efforts fail, they arrest them and take them into court. The agents meet twice a week at the office of the superintendent. In addition to the agents regularly employed as truant officers, special details of policemen were at times sent out to assist them. He says:—

"The delicate and arduous duties of the agents call for much care and discretion in their discharge. They have frequently to investigate cases requiring some skill in their management, as in the hasty judgment of the teacher the child is often classified as a truant, when, in fact, the parent is at fault, or unfortunate circumstances prevent the child's attendance at school.

"The causes of absence are numerous, and as the agents cannot always accept the representations of the child as valid, they must visit the parent and endeavour to ascertain the cause, relying upon their own judgment to arrive at a just conclusion. They are thus often led into abodes of wretchedness and crime, and it is here they have to exercise no ordinary judgment and discretion. Drunkenness, the parent of vice and misery, often baffles their efforts and denies their authority. The work of the agents is various, and the results are not always visible. They are called upon by both teacher and parent to reprimand and warn children who are inclined to truancy, or who have been disorderly in their conduct. Frequent changes in the residences of children, and the search after those, who when traced are discovered to be over or under the age prescribed by law, consumes much of their available time.

"In other cases the child, warned by companions of their intended visit, is found to have returned to school; this, though not apparently the consequence of the agent's work, is nevertheless accomplished by it. In some instances, frequent visits, much time, and great amount of moral suasion are required to induce the child to attend school.

"Much time is also consumed in frequent visits to school and diligent search of information, and 'out at work' is frequently

the reply to the oft-repeated search after the parents, while the child is probably 'running around' unknown to them who suppose it to be in school.

"The result of all these visits shows inadequately the amount of effort and time bestowed, and as the districts of some of the agents cover a large extent of territory, much patience must be used and plodding work done.

"Instances of opposition on the part of the parents to the law, or the efforts of the agents, are extremely rare; but rather do they regard them as welcome visitors and valuable auxiliaries; their authority and suasion being earnestly solicited for the reformation of the child. Not unfrequently they are called upon to do the missionary work of relieving destitution by enlisting aid of the charitably disposed, to provide clothing and other necessaries for the deserving. While their sphere of action in this respect is necessarily limited, yet some good has resulted from their efforts; their kindness and encouragement to the parents and children popularizing the law with the people.

"When kind endeavours have failed, then, and then only, is the aid of the law invoked, and the child brought into court."

The following table shows the nature and extent of the work done among truants and absentees from school:

Total number of cases investigated	10,189
No. of children kept home by parents.....	2,279
" " " sickness.....	1,520
" " " poverty.....	506
No. of children whose residence could not be found..	1,690
Total number not classed as truants.....	5,995
No. truants returned to school.....	2,015
No. habitual truants returned to school.....	587
No. non-attendants placed in school.....	1,121
No. children withdrawn from school.....	385
No. destitute children supplied with clothing, and thereby enabled to attend school.....	26
No. children committed to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction.....	44
No. children committed to the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents.....	16
Total number placed in and withdrawn from school..	4,194
Total.....	10,189

Under the operation of this system the number of children registered in the public schools has increased in the year from 106,546 to 112,732, and the average attendance from 93,825 to 100,914. The increase in the industrial schools during the same period was 1,099. Some of this increase is of course attributable to the natural increase of population. The Superintendent recommends as necessary to make the work in which he is engaged effective—

1. That an annual census of the school children be taken.
2. That each child of school age be required to be accounted for at the public school of the district in which he resides.
3. The establishment of a truant school or home, to be under the management of the Board of Education.

As the necessity for the establishment of homes for friendless children has pressed itself very strongly upon the school men of Pennsylvania, we quote his arguments in favour of similar institutions in New York:

"Much as I am opposed to multiplication of public institutions, I cannot but feel that every dictate of humanity, and every consideration for the educational interests of this city, demand the establishment of some institution, the object of which shall be the reformation of those who, through utter neglect, are allowed to grow up in ignorance, and without any salutary control to become the pests of society, and eventually the inmates of poor-houses and prisons.

"If education has any power to lessen pauperism and crime, it would seem to be peculiarly fitting that those to whose care has been confided the sacred duty of educating the people should allow no consideration to stand in the way of conferring upon society so great a benefit.

"It is one of the duties of the Board of Education to provide means for the education of all children, and while giving that care and attention which is eminently just and proper to the establishment of colleges and schools of the highest order, the necessity that exists of providing a place for those who should, but will not attend school, should not be overlooked. Unfortunately, it is necessary to enforce the stern provisions of the law against them, but while so doing we should ever be mindful that the aim is reformation and not punishment. They are guilty of no crime; they are as much sinned against as sinning; and no stigma should ever be placed upon them.