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The Canada School Journal

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Recommended by the Minister of Education for Ontario.
Recommended by the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, New Brunswick.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, British Columbia.
Recommended by Chief Superintendent of Education, Manitoba.*

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.

DOMINION LEGISLATION FOR THE YOUNG.

Among the few measures of a purely benevolent nature before the House of Commons, two relating to children, young persons and women, deserve notice. The first, introduced by Mr. Bergin, M.P., is an elaborate bill of 75 sections, with corresponding schedules, designed "to regulate the employment of children, young persons and women in the workshops, mills and factories of the Dominion of Canada." The first part of the bill regulates hours of labour. Those for children must be only for the first half of each day, or for the whole of alternate days; those for young persons and women shall be from 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., less two periods of one hour each allowed for meals and rest. Saturday is to be a half day. Where no children or young people are employed the hours for women shall be from 6.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. except on Saturday, when they shall be from 6.30 a.m. until 4 p.m. The time allowed for meals and rest to be four hours and a-half, and on Saturdays two hours. The four usual holidays, and eight half-days in the year, are to be allowed. Provision is made for improved ventilation, drainage, light and air, and treatment in case of infectious disease, as directed by a medical inspector of factories and mills. Precautions are also prescribed in regard to cleaning machinery while in motion, the fencing of fly and water wheels, vats, etc., and the fixing of grindstones securely. The provisions in regard to the attendance of factory children at school are as follows:—

"A. Every child employed in any factory or workshop shall attend the public or common school nearest the residence of such child, unless the parent or guardian of such child shall be a supporter of a separate school, when, and in such case, the child shall attend the separate school of which the parent or guardian is a supporter, as follows:

"1. Every child, when employed in a morning or afternoon set, shall, in every week during any part of which he is so employed, attend on each work day for at least one attendance; and

"2. Every child, when employed on the alternate day system, shall, on each work day preceding such day of employment, attend for at least two attendances:

"3. An attendance shall mean the morning or afternoon period of school hours as fixed by the laws of the Province in which the factory or workshop is situate:

"Provided that

"(a) No child shall be required to attend school on Saturday, or on any holiday or half holiday allowed under this Act in the factory or workshop in which the child is employed:

"(b) A child who has not in any week attended school for all the attendances required by this section shall not be employed in the following week until he has attended school for the deficient number of attendances, unless his non-attendance has been caused by sickness or other unavoidable cause certified by the school teacher.

"B. After the passing of this Act the owner, manager, superintendent, secretary, overseer, or person in charge of every mill or factory shall, before employing any child therein, obtain from a school teacher a certificate according to one of the forms and according to the directions given in the schedule marked D to this Act annexed, that such child had attended school for at least twenty days and not less than one hundred and twenty hours during one month preceding the employment of such child; and a like certificate shall be obtained on the Monday of each week during which the employment of such child shall be continued in that mill, or factory; and such owner, manager, superintendent, overseer, or person in charge shall keep every such certificate so long as such child shall continue in his employment for two calendar months after the date thereof, and shall produce the same to any Inspector or Medical Inspector when required during such period.

"C. In case of the employment of any child contrary to the provisions of this Act, or for a longer time than is hereinbefore limited and allowed, or without a due compliance with the provisions of this Act, touching the education of children or the certificates of the Medical Inspectors, Police Magistrates, or Justices of the Peace, the parent or parents of such child, or any person having any benefit from the wages of such child, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than five dollars, nor less than one dollar, unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Police Magistrate or Justice of the Peace that such unlawful employment has been without the wilful default of such parent, or person, so benefited as aforesaid."

The other bill, introduced by Mr. Richey, of Halifax, is designed to grant protection to children and to prevent juvenile crime. It provides that "persons having the care of children under sixteen years of age shall not allow them to be employed for exhibitions of a dangerous or immoral kind." These exhibitions are defined to be "rope or wire walking, dancing, begging, or peddling, or as a gymnast, contortionist, rider or acrobat," or for "singing, playing on musical instruments, except in churches, schools, etc." The bill further provides that no minors under sixteen years of age shall be allowed to remain in saloons or such places, or in dance houses, dancing clubs or concert saloons, unless accompanied by their parents or guardians. In the case of dancing classes only written permission of the parent or guardian to the manager is sufficient.

Two other bills have been introduced by the Hon. Minister of Justice to facilitate the working of the recent Ontario Acts relating to the Penitentiary Reformatory for Boys, and the Mercer Industrial Refuge for Girls.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

We would not go so far as to recommend the abolition of corporal punishment in schools. It has its uses in some cases