

Falling Leaf," etc. It was not at all probable that one of the victims of these subjects had an idea on any one of the subjects offered, it was simply impossible that he should have an original idea concerning any of them. Such utterances of others on the subjects mentioned as came within reach were liberally cribbed from; those of the pupils who had a readiness in stringing together words without meaning were bribed to "do" the composition of their companions who lacked the gift; and so, at stated times, teacher and school worried through a stereotyped amount of composition writing. The pupils learned nothing from exercises of this kind, they gained a little facility in the use of stereotyped and stilted phrases,—this was all, no power whatever in the valued art of direct, intelligent, and forcible expression.

The Egyptians of old, when they levied the tale of bricks upon the toiling Israelites, but gave them not the straw so necessary in the making thereof, were accounted most cruel taskmasters. Not less cruel is the teacher who demands of his pupils compositions without ideas. Give children ideas, and if they have any vocabulary at all, they will not be slow in manufacturing compositions. They should be taught that a composition is not merely a stilted effort at an essay, but any intelligent arrangement of knowledge on any subject. When the child understands this, he will no longer regard composition-writing as a hopeless bugbear.

The first thing necessary is, by some device, to give the child some ideas. * * * A picture is placed before the children, a few questions are asked to test their understanding of it, or, if they are inexperienced in writing, the teacher tells them a story about it, and then they are set to work to write a composition concerning the picture. Very young children will be found to do this work very well, showing that when writing compositions means telling what they know, it becomes a very simple matter.—*Western Educational Journal*.

Notes and News.

ONTARIO.

The average salary paid to teachers in Prince Edward County is, males \$370, females \$265.

The Hon. Adam Crooks has left for England for four or five months with a view of securing rest.

The high school, Fergus, of which C. F. McGillivray, B.A., is head master, is doing well. The attendance averages 60 pupils.

A. D. Davidson, B.A., late head master Caledonia high school, was a short time since appointed to a similar position in Elora high school. He is ably assisted by Mrs. Kirkman.

We are glad to announce the convalescence of Mr. J. W. Narro-way, the efficient principal of the central school, Belleville. He had been suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis.

W. O'Connor, M.A., late head master of Owen Sound high school, has been appointed principal of the collegiate institute, Peterboro; C. De la Matter, B.A., succeeds him at Owen Sound.

The cost of public school inspection has, during the past few years, made a wonderful increase. In 1871 the expenses were only \$11,527, while in 1881 they amounted to \$31,022.

The teachers of the high and public schools of Pembroke met in the high school building, the other evening, and organized a Local Teachers' Association for the purpose of self-improvement.

Mr. James Learn, formerly a deserving student of St. Thomas collegiate institute, and well known as a teacher in Dorchester, has been appointed head master of one of the London public schools.

Miss Alice Higgins, a graduate of Toronto normal school, has recently been appointed first assistant in the public school, Brussels, of which Mr. J. Shaw is the efficient and highly respected head master.

The appointment of Mr. S. Roulston to the head mastership of Palmerston public schools is one that is giving much satisfaction. Mr. Roulston previously taught in Arkona, Lambton Co., where he was highly esteemed.

The Listowel high school Board have engaged a native German, Dr. Sommer, to give lessons to the pupils wishing to acquire the German language. There are 15 in the class at present, with the prospect of an increase.

In the Tronton high school, of which H. E. Kennedy, B.A., is head master, arrangements have been made to have a "Local examination for women" held next June. A committee of resident influential ladies and gentlemen, has the matter in hand.

We do not hesitate to say that the March number of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL just to hand is the most interesting number yet issued. This single number is worth to any teacher the annual subscription price of the JOURNAL.—*Canadian Statesman*.

At the meeting of the school board, Whitby, recently held, Mr. Henderson's salary, as teacher in the collegiate institute, was increased to \$650.00. Mr. Henderson is a faithful and diligent teacher, and we are pleased to note this recognition of his valuable services.

Mr. D. B. Hyatt, who was second master in Fergus public school, has recently been promoted to the principalship. He is well assisted by Mr. Webster, and both these gentlemen are zealous, well qualified teachers, whose desire is to bring their school up to the highest standard.

Brampton high school is, we learn, preparing for a public entertainment to come off shortly, the proceeds to be devoted to the establishment of a library of reference for the school. We wish the head master, Alex. Murray, M.A., his staff, and the pupils, every success in their enterprise.

There are 25 teachers employed in the schools of Belleville. The highest salary paid to a teacher in that city is \$1,000, and the lowest \$250. The amount required for this year is \$15,210, of which \$3,857.85 is in government grants; the remaining \$11,352.15 will have to be provided by the city.

A. H. Watson, B.A., has succeeded Mr. Kerr as assistant in Richmond Hill high school. It is proposed to build a new public school—the present building is a disgrace to the town. The public school is under the management of F. F. McMahon, with two assistants. Average attendance, 160.

The public school estimates of Brockville for 1883 are \$6,710—\$4,995 of which is for the salaries of 15 teachers, 14 of whom are females. The estimates of the high school board are \$2,300. It is proposed to form a special class in the high school for the study of botany, chemistry, and practical science.

There is an average attendance of 220 pupils in the public school, Aurora. For the past three years Mr. Armstrong has occupied the position of principal, and is reported as one of the most successful teachers in the county. The staff of teachers at present numbers four, and steps are being taken to secure the services of a fifth.

The public school, Lucknow, under the excellent management of Mr. H. S. McLean, head master, is in a very flourishing condition. The building is one of the best of its class that we have seen, and the system of instruction carried on cannot fail to produce the best results. Mr. Middleton, second master, is doing good work in his department.

At the literary entertainment recently given in connection with the high school, Weston, the sum of about \$100 was realized. This amount will be placed to the credit of the prize and scholarship fund. The chair on the occasion was filled by the energetic head master, G. Wallace, B.A., whom we congratulate on the live condition of his school.

We regret extremely to hear of the illness of Dr. J. Agnew, the respected and, up to the time of his sickness, indefatigable inspector of schools for Frontenac County. Although it is thought his chances of recovery are very meagre, yet we hope he may rally and be again able before long to carry on the arduous duties he has hitherto so efficiently performed.

The library in connection with the Mechanics' Institute at Elora is, without doubt, second to none in any other country town in the Province. Certain works recently added have become the subject of a newspaper war between some of the local clergy and the late public school head master. As a consequence these books are now generally sought after by the townspeople.

Notwithstanding the severe weather, the attendance at the central school, Listowel, has been well maintained. The good, solid instruction imparted therein by Mr. B. Rothwell, principal, and his able staff of assistants, together with the perfect order and discipline which are prominent features, combine to make this school second to none of its class in the country.