

The Canada School Journal.

Vol. V.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1880.

No. 93.

The Canada School Journal

IS PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH AT

11 WELLINGTON ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT., CAN.

Subscription \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

Address—W. J. GAGE & CO., Toronto.

CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL HAS RECEIVED

*An Honorable Mention at Paris Exhibition, 1878.
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.

SCHOOL MATTERS IN THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

It is not expected that any important changes will be made in the school law during the present session. Two or three members of the House have, however, introduced amendments concerning details in the working of the law. The one that most concerns teachers was introduced by Mr. Watters, of North Middlesex, and provides for the reduction of the summer holidays from six to three weeks. Several members spoke in favor of the amendment. It is unfortunate that in a Local Legislature there are always a number of members who seem to pride themselves on showing that they never had the opportunity of acquiring liberal and enlightened views concerning educational matters. It was pleasing to notice the fact that one at least of the new members holds views in accordance with those of intelligent educators and social science reformers in all civilized countries, and is able to express them in an able and decided manner. Dr. McLaughlin, of West Durham, showed that the number of cases of brain fever and other brain affections in children under twelve years of age was frightfully on the increase, and proved very clearly that compelling *little* children (the class for whom the advocates of the proposed amendment were specially pleading) to go long distances in the hot sun and sit in close, musty school-rooms studying all day, must have an injurious effects on their mental and physical natures.

Hon. Mr. Crooks showed that the number of school days in Ontario was more than in England or the United States, but promised to deal with the matter, if necessary, in a Bill which he proposes to introduce. There is one question to which we would respectfully direct his attention. In the 29th clause of his Bill of last session no distinction was made between the erection of a *new* school-house to take the place

of an old one, and the providing of necessary additional accommodation. We think a distinction might be clearly and simply made which would remove the anomaly of holding the trustees personally responsible for providing accommodation for the pupils seeking admission, and yet directly crippling them in their efforts to do so.

The School Book question was brought before the House by an enquiry by Mr. Baxter. The Minister of Education explained his duty to be to see that the public is supplied with text books of the highest merit and best mechanical construction at the lowest possible prices.

When Mr. Crooks assumed his present position, he found the policy of the old Council of Public Instruction with regard to the authorization of Text books to be surrounded with many difficulties in its practical working. He at once entered upon a careful investigation of the departmental, commercial, and public aspects of the question, and was led to the conclusion that he had two clear duties to perform; First, to authorize the best possible books in the different subjects, and second, to have them sold at the lowest possible prices, provided that they should always be printed and bound in accordance with departmental regulations. A carefully selected list of books was authorized, and the policy adopted resulted in the production of the best school books ever published in Canada. There is no comparison between the mechanical execution of the books of to-day and those of five years ago. In some cases there may yet be room for improvement, but Mr. Crooks only requires to persevere in the course he has adopted, to ensure in a short time a series of text-books of which any country might feel justly proud.

The clearest proof that the books selected by Mr. Crooks possesses genuine merit, both as to cheapness and contents, is found in the facts that they have to a large extent supplanted those formerly in use, and that most of them have recently been adopted in the other provinces of the Dominion in which changes have taken place.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HALIFAX.

The report of the Registrar of the above University for the year 1879 contains the following summary: "Seven examinations were held during the past year, attended by 25 candidates, of whom 17 passed and 8 were rejected. Up to this time 57 candidates have been examined, 40 of whom have passed, the nature of the examination and the standard of attainment required of candidates accounting for the large number of rejections. Every one of the affiliated colleges, with the single exception of Acadia, have sent up candidates to one or more of the examinations, and Pictou Academy and Halifax High School have both successfully prepared candidates for matriculation. The support of the colleges is making itself more felt