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The Canada School Journal

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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.

INDUSTRIAL DRAWING.

We have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to Dr. Rand's letter which will be found *in extenso* on another page of this issue. The subject it deals with is one of the very foremost importance, as the facts cited by the writer, and others that could easily be referred to, conclusively prove. For example, a prominent Toronto merchant, who has returned recently from a visit to England, in giving an account of the state of trade and manufactures there spoke of the woollen industry as being in a prosperous condition everywhere except in Bradford and added that the manufacturers of that locality had determined, as a means of relief from depression, to establish very largely at their own expense a school of design. This resolution shows better than almost anything else could have done the progress made during the past twenty years in the appreciation of the art of drawing in connection with manufactures, and it forms a striking endorsement of the views put before the Finance Minister by Dr. Rand.

The vagaries of Oscar Wilde and his fellow-aesthetes are simply another sign of the times. There is going on everywhere a struggle for the realisation of higher ideals in the region of taste as well as in that of utility, and, crude and bizarre as are some of the notions of the school referred to, the votaries of sunflowers and dados are really helping on a very important work. Cost and enduring qualities being equal every one would naturally prefer an elegant article even of ordinary wear or of domestic use to an ill-fashioned or tawdry one, and the more educated the taste by contact with what is really refining the more marked does this preference become. A beautiful fire-screen or furniture cover is a "thing of joy" just because it is a "thing of beauty," and it is not surprising that the manufacturer of old fashioned tweeds or carpets should find it hard to dispose of them in competition with goods marked by beautiful colours and elegant patterns.

In the Province of Ontario something has been done during the past few years to diffuse a more general knowledge of in-

dustrial drawing, but as yet only the first steps have been taken. Fortunately we have a Government that is abreast of the times, and now that the School of Design, which has been kept going for some time under great difficulties, is to be transplanted to and taken under the special charge of the Education Department, we may expect much more rapid progress to be made. Every teacher who goes out with a license to teach should be compelled to acquire, as part of his professional training, at least an elementary knowledge of design and industrial drawing. There should be some place assigned to the subject in every school time-table, for it is impossible to say beforehand whether our great artists and designers will be found in cities or rural districts. Designing possesses this great advantage over every other kind of drawing, that it is a creating and not a mere copying process, and the power of fascination which it possesses in virtue of this fact renders it useful as a means of recreation in a school.

We are not in a position to say whether the representations of Dr. Rand are likely to be effective or not, but as it is currently reported that Mr. Walter Smith is open to an engagement in Canada it is very desirable that an effort should be made to induce him to begin here a work similar to that which he has carried on so successfully for many years past in Massachusetts. Canada has at least fairly entered upon what promises to be a comprehensive industrial career and her people may as well make up their minds at the outset that her status as a manufacturing country will depend very largely on the extent to which a knowledge of industrial drawing is diffused amongst the pupils attending her common schools. It seems feasible that Mr. Smith's services should be procurable by a retainer from the Dominion Government supplemented by additional sums from the Governments of such Provinces as chose to enjoy the benefits of his experience in organizing a system of industrial drawing in connection with their systems of education. The work of education is of course provincial in its character, but industrial education might well be made an exception. At all events we hope to hear of something being done as the result of the step Dr. Rand has taken and we hope to hear also of his action being endorsed by others who are interested in the work.

QUESTION DRAWER.

We propose to commence in the next number of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL a department for correspondents who write to us for information on matters connected with school-work. We do not bind ourselves to answer all questions even when we have the facts at hand necessary to enable us to do so; in order to secure an answer the question should relate to some matter of general importance. Every question should be accompanied by the name, address, and occupation or the sender, not only as a guarantee of good faith but in order that we may communicate with him by letter if it should be desirable to do so.