

the efficiency and zeal with which he has performed the duties of his office for the past year."

On motion of Mr. Sheppard, seconded by Mr. Sheldrick, a vote of thanks similar to the above was unanimously accorded to the Vice-President, Rev. Professor Hincks.

The Board then adjourned.

W. EDWARDS, *Secretary*.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SUB COMMITTEE.

The Sub-Committee beg to submit to the Board the Eighth Annual Report—being an abstract of proceedings during their period of office, and of the present position and future prospects of the Board.

During the year, the following Mechanics' Institutes have been represented on the Board: Cobourg Institute, by two delegates; Dundas, by its president; Hamilton, by its president and seven delegates; London, by its president and two delegates; Toronto, by its president and eight delegates; Whithy, by its president and one delegate. The Toronto Board of Trade has also been represented by one delegate; and the Toronto University College by the Rev. W. Hincks, F.L.S., Professor of Natural History, and George Buckland, Esq., Professor of Agriculture.

Your Committee cannot but express their regret that so few of the Institutions intended to be benefited by the operations of the Board, should see it to be their duty to take part in its management. They fear, however, that no great improvement can be looked for in this respect, until the legislative grants to these Institutions are resumed, either on the former basis, or on that of the proposed amended act, providing for the payment of such grants through the instrumentality of this Board, in the same manner and on similar conditions as the payments of the Agricultural grants are made through the Board of Agriculture; or until such an increased annual grant is secured to this Board as shall make it more especially to the interest of the several Institutions to connect themselves with it.

For some four years successively has this Board, in conjunction with the Board for Lower Canada, sought for important amendments to that portion of the statute under which they are incorporated. These amendments have been concurred in by the respective governments and legislatures to which they have been submitted; but owing to their being connected with and forming a part of the same act constituting the Board of Agriculture and Agricultural Association and Societies, in regard to which important differences of opinion have so far existed, have failed to obtain the amendments sought for.

Patent Laws.

Your Committee have to regret that no amendments have as yet been made to the Provincial Patent Laws. Owing to their prohibitory character as regards subjects of other countries, our inventors are still prevented from participating in the benefits arising from the liberal provisions of the United States laws, under which patent rights are granted to subjects of foreign reciprocating countries on the same conditions as to its own subjects. The only conditions upon which a Canadian citizen can now obtain the benefit of the United States market for his invention, is by paying the sum of \$500 for such right, under the American law as it existed prior to March, 1861.

The Hon. L. Letellier, late Minister of Agriculture, in concluding some lengthy remarks upon this subject in his report for the year 1863, says—

I deem it unnecessary to dwell any further upon the necessity of following, in the matter of patents for inventions, the example of liberality and of reciprocity afforded us in this respect by older countries, more advanced than ourselves in the development of the various branches of manufacturing industry, a course the adoption of which, it would seem, they have never had reason to regret.

Should these liberal views prevail with our present legislature, and the confederation of the Provinces be also carried out, our inventors will then be in a position to secure as a market for their inventions nearly the whole of the continent of North America.

The Journal.

The most serious drain upon the funds of the Board for the past four years has been on account of the Journal, upon which the average annual loss has been nearly \$700. While your Committee look upon this as a larger sum than would have been required for the purpose had the Journal been properly patronized, and much larger than the funds of the Board could afford, in justice to its many other important objects; yet, in view of its advantages as a medium for disseminating the best of practical information amongst the industrial classes, they cannot for a moment think of recommending its discontinuance.

During the past year, the Secretary has undertaken the whole duty of editing and superintending its publication, without any additional remuneration, by which means the loss was much less on the last than on former years; and by means of other changes already introduced, while the efficiency of the Journal will be fully sustained, it is anticipated the loss on its publication for 1865 will be reduced to a minimum amount.

Your Committee desire to record their appreciation of the successful labours of the Secretary,