

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1850.

NOTICE TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC.

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION THE MEDIUM OF ALL OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.,
FROM THE EDUCATION OFFICE FOR UPPER CANADA.

Copy of a Letter from the Chief Superintendent of Schools to the Provincial Secretary.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

Toronto, 16th July, 1850.

SIR:—I have the honor to submit to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the propriety and advantage of my being authorized to make the *Journal of Education for Upper Canada* the medium of Official Notices, Instructions, &c., to the Municipal Councils, Superintendents, and other officers concerned in the administration of the School Law. This will be a great saving of expense in postage, a convenience to this Department, and to all parties concerned, and a means of diffusing much practical information on School matters.

In the neighbouring State of New-York, this practice has long obtained in the School Department. The State Superintendent is authorized to subscribe annually to the amount of \$2,400 for some monthly School Journal of which he approves, to be supplied to each School District (called School Sections with us), throughout the State, and to make such Journal the medium of publishing the School law, and communicating on School matters with local School authorities. The Educational Journal selected, is not edited, but only approved of by the State Superintendent. On the contrary, I have assumed both the labour and responsibility of editing and publishing a monthly Educational Journal. The 15th clause of the New School Bill, which passed the Legislative Assembly last week, makes it the duty of each Corporation of Trustees to procure, annually, for the benefit of their School Section, some periodical devoted to Education. I suppose, that, generally, if not universally, Trustees will feel it their interest and "duty" to procure the *Journal of Education for Upper Canada*. Making that *Journal* the medium of official notices, communications, &c., would add to its value and usefulness, and render all parties interested in the School system desirous of procuring it; and as I purpose to continue to do as I have done,—devote every farthing received on account of the *Journal of Education* in defraying the mechanical expenses of its publication, every additional subscriber will enable me to increase its value by illustrations in different departments of art, science, and natural history, and make other improvements, which I cannot undertake without a large subscription.

The convenience and practical benefits of the suggestion which I now submit, may be inferred from the following extracts from reports by the Superintendent of Schools in the State of New-York. In his report for 1847, (pages 53, 54,) he says,—"*The State subscription to this periodical [District School Journal] has been continued by the undersigned [the Honorable N. S. BENTON] since his appointment, under the full conviction of its necessity and importance, not only as a convenient medium of transmitting and diffusing the orders, regulations, and decisions of the Department, and the various laws passed by the Legislature, in relation to Common Schools to every School officer in the State, but as a most useful agent in promulgating interesting and important information equally beneficial to the public.*"

The present State Superintendent of Schools, (the Honorable C. MORGAN) in his School Report to the Legislature (page 14) for 1849, received by me a few weeks since, says,—"*The continuance of the annual appropriation for a monthly periodical, exclusively devoted to the subject of Education, and which shall serve as a medium of communication between this Department and the officers and inhabitants of the several School districts; is respectfully recommended.*"

I do not propose that any Notices, Circulars, Acts, &c., inserted in the *Journal of Education*, should be charged as advertisements :

but I only desire that the Governor-General in Council may be pleased to approve of my employing this method of communicating with Municipal Bodies and School Officers, on matters connected with this Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

E. RYERSON.

The Honorable

JAMES LESLIE,

Secretary of the Province.

Copy of the Provincial Secretary's Reply to the foregoing Letter.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Toronto, 30th July, 1850.

REV. SIR,—I am directed by the Governor-General to state, in reply to your letter of the 16th instant, that His Excellency has been pleased to direct me to communicate to you his approval of the plan therein proposed, viz.: of making the *Journal of Education* the medium of communicating Official Notices, Instructions, &c., from your Department to Municipal Councils, Superintendents, and other persons concerned in the administration of the School Law in Upper Canada.

I have the honor to be, Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

J. LESLIE,

Secretary.

The Reverend

EGERTON RYERSON, D. D.,

Chief Supt. of Schools, U.C.

In accordance with the foregoing correspondence, we hope the *Journal of Education* will find its way into every Municipality and School Section in Upper Canada. Several Municipal Councils and many Trustees have already requested it. We hope all others will do the same. Trustees will not, of course, do so at their own personal expense, but at that of the School Section for which they act. And to private individuals, who wish to be informed on all School matters, and educational subjects generally, the payment of five shillings a-year is a very small sacrifice in comparison of the advantages and satisfaction secured by it.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—NEW COMMON SCHOOL ACT FOR UPPER CANADA.

In the last number of this *Journal* we inserted the new Common School Act for Upper Canada, and all the Forms, Instructions and Regulations for conducting all proceedings under it. In the present number, we insert Circulars to the various Municipal Councils, Local Superintendents, Trustees and Teachers on the principles and provisions of the Act, and the best means of giving them the greatest possible effect. We have only now to make two remarks respecting the proceedings of the Legislature on this measure, and to give a summary view of its characteristics.

The proceedings of the Legislature indicate that this Act was no party measure. It was considered as a *Provincial* measure; and as such, it received the sanction of all parties in the Legislature. Considering the experience of past years, and past legislation on the Common School Law, and the circumstances under which the present Act was brought before the Legislature, and the careful and protracted examination and discussion of all its details, it may be justly regarded as embodying the deliberate judgment of each branch of the Legislature, and of all parties in it, as to the principles and provisions of the Common School Law for Upper Canada. The friends of education throughout the Province, may therefore be satisfied that the present law in all its leading features will be perma-