

Correspondence on all live educational topics, theoretical and practical, is urgently solicited, and will, when right in style and spirit, be admitted without regard to the agreement or disagreement of the views presented with those of the editor, who is a thorough believer in freedom of thought and speech. It may be added, for the encouragement of inexperienced writers, that slight slips, or inaccuracies in expression, will be corrected.

Brevity and terseness, so far as the nature of the subject and the ability of the writer may admit, will characterize the editorial department. Most space will be devoted to the discussion of such topics as seem likely to be of interest to the largest class of readers. At the same time, it will be the aim to give due attention to all the great movements of educational opinion which are becoming so marked a feature in the intellectual progress of the age. Deploring the tendency of the day in Ontario, to drag even the most sacred educational questions into the arena of party conflict, the editor will strive earnestly and honestly to lift up the discussion of all such questions to a higher plane.

Last, but by no means least, the JOURNAL will, with pleasure and thankfulness, avail itself of the aid of a number of prominent educational writers who have kindly promised regular or occasional contributions. A list of some of these valued contributors will be published in the first number of the new volume. By means of helpers so efficient, the editor hopes to secure fair and adequate presentation of both, or rather of all, sides of all the more important topics that may come up from time to time, such as the proposed College of Preceptors, the Departmental Examinations, the choice of Text-books, etc.

Modesty is becoming at all times, and especially where one is putting on the harness. The subscriber ventures to hope that these frank statements of his aims and purposes may not seem like the words of one who is ready to promise great things. While, he trusts, not much accustomed to thrust his own personality before his readers, the present occasion makes it not inappropriate for him to refer to some of the grounds of his hope that he may be able to render some service to the cause in which it is his ambition to be useful. Having been born and having grown up in New Brunswick, having been educated in Nova Scotia, having taught for a score of years in those provinces, and in Ontario, having passed through all grades of the profession from the district school to the college, and having had some years' experience in journalism in Ontario, Manitoba, and the North-West, he trusts he may, without presumption, lay claim to some measure of preparation for the management of a journal intended for the use of teachers all over the Dominion. He will, at any rate, do his best. Those for whom he is to cater must be the judges.

J. E. WELLS.

MANY editorial and other items are unavoidably crowded out of this issue.

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PLEASE note that this is not a sample copy of the JOURNAL that is to be. Send in your subscription, if possible, but in any case do not fail to drop us a postal card asking for a copy of the next number, which we shall be glad to send for examination.

AT an informal meeting of persons interested in the study and teaching of Modern Languages (including English), held during the Session of the Ontario Teachers' Association in August last, it was decided to endeavor to form a Modern Language Association for the Province of Ontario, and Mr. J. Squair, B.A., of University College, was appointed Provision Secretary, with instructions to make arrangements for a meeting at an early date. That meeting is now called for Wednesday and Thursday, December 29th and 30th, in University College Y. M. C. A. buildings. The preliminary meeting takes place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, for organization, election of officers, etc. For the remaining sessions, extending over Thursday, an attractive programme has been arranged, including an address by Dr. Wilson, and papers by other well known writers. The aim of the proposed society is excellent, and can scarcely fail to awaken deep interest.

WE note that the North-West Council at its late session resolved to ask the Dominion Government for a grant, amongst others, for the establishment of one or more High Schools in the Territories. Whether this is the best mode of attaining it or not, the object is a most desirable one. Amongst the many difficulties which the settler on the prairies has to meet, those in the way of securing a good education for his children are amongst the most serious. The great distances at which the settlers are placed from each other, by the large sizes of their holdings, and especially by the multitudinous reservations of one kind and another by which the settlement of so large a portion of the land is retarded, will render it very difficult for a long time to come, to secure even efficient common schools, within reach, especially as the severity of the climate in winter must make it well-nigh impossible for the younger children to go long distances during the time when they can best be spared. It has always seemed to us that one of the serious mistakes in the free grant regulations was that the settlers were not permitted and encouraged to build their houses in groups, or little villages, as the Mennonites have done. This would have gone far to settle the school difficulty, as well as to save the families, and