

vacant chair of Classics in Toronto University. Great credit is due to the Minister for the good service already done in securing for the University Professors Wright and Loudon, who have proved themselves well qualified for the high position in which they have been placed. It is to be hoped that he will be equally successful in the choice he is now about to make.

—The English educational journals strongly urge the teachers to take concerted action in relation to the elections about to take place. It is proposed to select a teachers' candidate, and a subscription is set on foot to raise £1,000 to pay the expenses of his election.

Contributions and Correspondence.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION IN MANITOBA.

BY REV. W. CYPRIAN PINKHAM, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.

The system of public education which was inaugurated in 1871 is becoming year by year of greater value to the country. Considering all that the Province has suffered from the repeated grasshopper visitations, and the difficulty of obtaining funds from a population, many of whom found the resources at their disposal for establishing themselves in a new country very limited indeed, it is really surprising that the organization and support of schools should have received such a large share of attention, and that the educationists in Ontario should be able to say of a system which has been scarcely nine years in operation: "So far as public school education is concerned, the residents of Manitoba can obtain in the towns and villages, and in many of the rural districts, quite as good advantages for their children as in many of the older provinces." It is a most gratifying fact that, as soon as they become established in their prairie homes, our settlers almost invariably set about the organization of school districts and the establishment of schools, and the result is that schools are now in operation in townships which two or three years ago were without a settler, and much of the land in which is still wild. Visitors to the capital of the Province are struck with the imposing appearance which our school buildings make, and to the credit of the city trustees it must be said that they are leaving no means untried for securing the utmost efficiency in the various schools under their jurisdiction.

The body entrusted with the administration of the Public School Act is the Board of Education. The Board consists of twenty-one members appointed by the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council, viz.: twelve Protestants and nine Roman Catholics. The appointments are for three years, provision being made for the retirement of seven members each year, who, however, are eligible for re-appointment. The Board is empowered to resolve itself into two sections, consisting of the Protestant and Roman Catholic members respectively. Each section has one of its members for its executive officer, with the title of Superintendent. It has the entire management of all the schools of its denomination throughout the Province. It makes all necessary arrangements for the grading and licensing of its teachers, and for the withdrawal of the licence upon sufficient cause. It selects all books, maps, etc., to be used under its jurisdiction, and has power to appoint inspectors, to define their duties and provide for their remuneration. The organization of school districts and the opening of schools rests practically with the people directly interested. The Board of Education has invariably given the utmost encouragement to settlers desirous of

establishing schools, and information as to the steps to be taken can at all times be obtained from the Superintendent. After the formation of a school district the freeholders and householders meet at the call, by printed notice, of the Superintendent, for the purpose of electing three trustees, who thus become the guardians of the educational interests of the district—to appoint auditors, and to vote the sum of money to be raised by assessment on all the real and personal property in the district to supplement the Government grant. This grant amounts now to a little over one hundred dollars per annum to each school carried on for the full twelve months. The meeting can, if it pleases, authorize the trustees to borrow a certain amount of money for the erection of a school house, etc. At the annual meeting, which takes place on the first Monday in February in all the school districts in the Province, the trustee whose term of office has expired retires, and there is a new election to fill his place; the retiring trustee is eligible for re-election. After the first meeting, ratepayers only, i. e., persons residing in the district and who have paid their school tax for the previous year, are entitled to take part in the proceedings or to be elected as trustees. If such meeting refuse to vote a sum of money to carry on the school, no school can be opened that year, unless a motion to raise money be adopted at a subsequent meeting. The powers and duties of trustees are clearly defined by statute. The Protestant section of the Board of Education, in its programme of examination for teachers, adopted a pretty high standard. Its examiners are professional men of high standing in the province, almost all of whom have been at some time or other engaged in teaching. Its teachers bear excellent moral characters, have as a rule a high sense of duty, and seem most anxious to come up to the standard which our modern ideas require in the profession.

At the present time there are nearly 120 Protestant school districts in the Province, and this number will in all probability be doubled within the next two years. The following summary shows the number of Protestant schools in operation each year since Confederation:—

Year.	No. of Schools.	Total Attendance.
1871	16	816
1872	17	1095
1873	17	1108
1874	22	1248
1875	26	1595
1876	30	1669
1877	38	2027
1878	50	2670
1879	100	

The experience of each year brings to light defects in our system, and discloses circumstances not as yet provided for; but as we look back over the past, we cannot help feeling grateful for the measure of success which has been granted to us.

HOW TO PRONOUNCE "MUSA."

To the Editor of the Canada School Journal.

This is not intended as a quaint title for an article on the pronunciation of Latin. Concerning the relative merits of the English and continental methods I offer no opinion. My purpose is simply to discuss the pronunciation of the *ablative singular* of an ordinary noun or adjective in the *First Declension*.

Throughout the Maritime Provinces, so far as my observation has extended, the English mode of pronunciation generally prevails; and to this mode my remarks have reference. It has come to my knowledge in various ways, during the past fifteen years, that many teachers of Latin, including College Professors, have been in the habit of teaching or allowing students to pronounce the class of words mentioned in a manner that is entirely unwarranted and incorrect. While the nominative case is pronounced