

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION

FOR

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The present number of the Journal of Education is the last that can be issued under the existing law. In view of the approaching end of this law, and in the prospect of being enabled to retire from his office at its close, the Superintendent of Education begs leave to tender to the Commissioners, Trustees and Teachers of the Province, and to the friends of Education with whom his official duties have brought him into contact, his grateful acknowledgements for aid and co-operation, and for personal attention and kindness.

Visiting the various Counties as a stranger, and the occupant of an office which many were at that time disposed to consider needless, and which might in many cases bring him into collision with existing practices and interests, much that would be unpleasant might have been apprehended. Such apprehensions however, have not been realised, and nothing could speak more favorably for the soundness of our provincial feeling on the subject of Education, than the almost entire absence of party or sectarian rancour and official or professional jealousy from the educational proceedings of the last two years.

With all the imperfections of the present law, it must be admitted that under it many agencies for improvement have been brought to bear on the schools. Educational meetings for free discussion have been held.—Lectures have been delivered.—Institutes of instruction for teachers have been convened.—Associations have been organised—improvements in school houses and apparatus have been explained and introduced—school books have been furnished—district libraries have been established—an Educational Journal has been commenced—more accurate returns have been obtained—greater care has been exercised in the examination of teachers—the tone of public opinion on the subject of education has been elevated. These are matters of no small importance; and entitle the present law to our grateful remembrance, when it shall be no more. It did not however reach the three great evils that have always affected the schools; the want of *free schools*, *trained teachers* and *systematic trustee management*.

A Bill including all the good parts of the old law and providing for the supply of these deficiencies, has grown out of the inquiries and agitation of the last two years, and is now before the Legislature. May the Author of all wisdom grant to our Legislators the power and disposition to deal with this great subject as its importance to the welfare of the Province, and the pressing wants of the children who from day to day depend on our schools for mental and moral culture, demand.

If a training school and free schools, with the better organisation of district affairs implied in them be adopted, we shall have a school system of which Nova Scotia may well be proud, and under which our people may advance with vastly accelerated rapidity in all that concerns our provincial prosperity. These improvements will give us from the first, education for nearly fifteen thousand children now destitute of it, and more regular and perfect means of instruction to twenty-five or thirty thousand now receiving some share of the benefits of education. Once introduced they will never be abandoned; and if properly tended and nurtured, they will take deep root in our Province, and yield their fruits in increased abundance from generation to generation; and will be valued by our descendants as the best inheritance handed down to them from our times. These great engines for popular instruction are earnestly commended by the present Superintendent to the hearty support of every enlightened lover of his country; and he earnestly solicits for those who may be concerned in the administration of a law embracing such improvements, that kind consideration and zealous co-operation which he has himself experienced.

#### School Report for 1851.

The Report contains the Superintendent's narrative of proceedings for the past year, Statistical Tables and remarks on the state of Education as compared with last year, and suggestions in reference to a New School Law. In the Appendix are Rules of Teachers Associations, an Address on Free Schools by Dr. Ryerson, and notes of the proceedings of the Insti-

tute at Truro. The two latter are especially worthy of the attention of parents and teachers. As the Legislature has ordered the printing of 1500 copies for the purpose of diffusing information respecting the Schools, it is hoped that teachers will endeavour to circulate their copies as widely as possible among the supporters of their schools and others.

Clerks of Commissioners will please endeavour to distribute the School Reports forwarded to them, in such a manner as to give each Commissioner and Teacher a copy. No other persons should receive copies till all such are supplied.

#### Agricultural Chemistry.

The Superintendent has much pleasure in stating that this subject has not been lost sight of by teachers during the present winter. It has been taught in a number of common as well as grammar schools, and the demands for sets of apparatus have exceeded the supply imported last summer. This subject must henceforth form a prominent and permanent feature of our provincial education.

The Maps of Nova Scotia charged in the bills of the following Boards could not be procured in time to be forwarded with the parcels of last year: Barrington, 1 doz; Shelburne, 1 doz.; Digby, 1 doz; Parrsboro', 2 doz; Kings', 2 doz; Hants 1 doz.; Queens', 1 doz; E. Halifax, 1 doz; W. Halifax, 1 doz; Lunenburg, 2 doz.; Annapolis, 2 doz; Rawdon and Douglas, 1 doz.; Argyle, 1 doz.; Yarmouth, 1 doz. On referring to the printed account in the School Report, it will be seen that the amount of these maps has been deducted from the sums charged to the Districts above named.

#### School Returns.

In the present uncertainty with respect to the provisions of the New School Law, the Superintendent is unwilling to print any blank returns for the half year closing in April. The printed blanks furnished last year may be used; and where these are exhausted, the following form may be followed:—