

The Educational Journal.

CONSOLIDATING

"The Educational Weekly" and "The Canada School Journal."

Subscription, \$1.50 a year,
In Advance.

TORONTO, APRIL 16, 1894.

Vol. VIII.
No. 1.

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Editorial Notes.

WE have not yet received the report of the committee who are examining the time-tables, and consequently are unable to make the promised announcement in this number. In all probability we shall be able to do so in the next.

It is to be feared that the Truancy Act is not very vigorously enforced. The number of truants reported in 1891 was 1,161, and 3,483 in 1892. Yet there seems to have been more effort to enforce the act in 1892, as 144 complaints were entered in the latter year and only 15 in 1891.

COMPLAINTS are still made by some of our subscribers of delays and irregularities in the receipt of the JOURNAL. We are unable to account for this, but will do our best to ascertain and remove the cause. Meanwhile we hope that all our subscribers will let us know by postal card when they fail to receive the paper within, say, a week of the date which it bears. We can usually supply missing numbers, and we are anxious to learn promptly of any failure in our mailing or other arrangements, or in the Post Office delivery.

IN consequence of the multitudinous sections into which the Educational Association is now subdivided, and which hold their sessions simultaneously, we are unable to have reports specially prepared by reporters of our own, as we should prefer. We are, therefore, obliged to fall back upon those published in the daily newspapers,

making the best compilation in our power. This year's session having taken place concurrently with the opening of the Dominion Parliament, whose proceedings largely absorbed the attention of the dailies, we find the material at our disposal less abundant than usual. We are indebted mainly, though not exclusively, to the *Globe* for the report which we submit elsewhere. Other city dailies have been utilized to some extent. On the whole, we hope that our account of this important educational gathering will be found tolerably satisfactory. We hope to be able to publish several of the valuable papers read, within the next few weeks. Mr. MacMillan's, on "Some Defects in Our Educational System," will appear, by special request of the Association, in an early number.

A GOOD deal of disapprobation is being evoked by the provisions of the new tariff in respect to books. The duty is changed from an *ad valorem* duty of fifteen per cent. to a specific duty of six cents a pound. It is probable that the Finance Minister supposed that this change would work in favor of the importation of books of high character and permanent value, while discouraging that of trashy novels and other worthless literature. In the opinion of prominent publishers and book-dealers the actual effect of the new duty will be very different. The Minister cannot have been well-informed in regard to the shape in which most of the best and most useful literature, such as the cloth-bound editions of the English and other classics, the great mass of Sunday-school books, etc., are imported. It is calculated that the new tariff will have the effect of at least doubling the tax on these and other kinds of unobjectionable and useful literature. It is likely that the pressure of public opinion will compel the Government to change or modify this and other features of the new tariff.

WE have given up a page of this number to a selection of appropriate songs and recitations for Arbor Day, May 4th. We had hoped that some of our readers who have successfully observed the day in former years, would have sent us some experiences and suggestions for the benefit of all, but none have yet come to hand. Perhaps none are needed. Every teacher can decide for himself and herself what

shape the exercises of the day had better take in order to meet the conditions of the special school, and its grounds and surroundings. In most cases the teacher, with a little tact, will be able through the children and otherwise, to arouse such enthusiasm in at least some of the parents, as to secure their co-operation with teams and tools. In most country schools young trees, shrubs, wild plants, etc., can in this way be procured in abundance. The tactful teacher will at the same time consult and direct the taste of the boys and girls with regard to the form and amount of decoration most suitable for the particular locality. That teacher will make a serious mistake, and lose a fine opportunity, who fails to make such use of the holiday as to have the school-room, or rooms, made tidier and prettier, the grounds and surroundings more tasteful, and the whole aspect of things more inviting, than ever before.

IN connection with the reference in the speech of the new President of the English National Union of Teachers, to the deplorable condition of many of the rural schools in England, the following from a late number of the *Schoolmaster*, is suggestive as well as amusing:

The five gentlemen who have just settled down to administer school board affairs at Moulton, a village near Northwich, do not seem likely to err on the side of extravagance, and probably if they were disposed in that direction the funds in the Board's exchequer would not allow them to carry their desires into operation. They begin by advertising for a school cleaner at 5s. per week, and receive amongst the applications the following:

"MOULTON.

SIR,—I want to apply for caretaker for the new school. I am very clene, honest, good-looking, carefull, and hard-working. If you sees fit to give me the place, I will do it for half-a-crown, for I think 5s. is to much. I will find coal mysel, seein as how you want to save poor folks' money. If you think I will do, I will be very glad to clene the gentlemen's boots, and find my own brushes.

I am yours,

ONE SHORT OF HALF-A-CROWN."

"P. S.—Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long,
But five bob a week for cleaning a school
Is coming it rather strong."

The Board evidently thought the application was "writ sarkastic"; the appointment passes to another, and the local poet goes back to his Muse.