

— A WOODEN BAROMETER.—Many of our readers have, no doubt, noticed in this and other papers, a description of a wooden barometer, said to be used in Brazil and other South American States. At our request, Messrs. Hersee & Timmerman have made one. It is made of a slip of red cedar, cut according to the grain, about an eighth of an inch thick, an inch and a half wide, and thirty inches long. On the back of this, strips of thoroughly seasoned pine, of the same thickness, are glued transversely to the grain of the cedar. This is set in a neat pedestal of black walnut. We received ours on Saturday forenoon. It was just finished, and stood as straight as a pike-staff. At three o'clock in the afternoon, it had bent over so that a perpendicular line from the top would fall about four inches from the base. It rained heavily during the afternoon. Yesterday it was a bright day, with a slight, pleasant breeze, and throughout the day the standard gradually approached an upright position, until at 6 p.m. it was not more than three-quarters of an inch from the perpendicular line. This morning, at six o'clock, it had bent over to three inches. At seven, it was nearly four inches out of line, and at eight o'clock it began raining. This statement will show the sensitiveness of the instrument.—*Buffalo Advocate.*

— AUSTRALIAN TELEGRAPH.—A select committee, appointed by the legislative council of New South Wales, to inquire into the practicability of establishing a telegraphic communication between that colony and Europe, has made its report, and published the evidence on which the report is founded. The evidence went to show that the best way would be to connect Sydney and London by way of Port Essington, Singapore, Rangoon, India, and the Euphrates. There would be no submarine cables between England and the Indian Archipelago, except across the British Channel and the Bosphorus. The cost of constructing a telegraph between Sydney and Port Essington, a distance of 1,800 miles, is estimated at £130,000, and the annual cost, including interest on the outlay, is estimated at £55,000 per annum. It was considered by some of the witnesses who gave evidence, that if there was established a telegraphic communication between Australia and Europe, the payment of an enormous subsidy to an Australian mail steam-packet company could be dispensed with. It was considered also by witnesses, that European nations who have possessions in the Pacific are interested in the extension of the telegraph to Australia, and that they might be expected to assist in its establishment.

— PAPER MAKING.—There are 750 paper-mills in the United States, in which are 3,000 engines, making 900,000 pounds a-day, or 270,000,000 a-year. 6,000 tons of straw, for wrapping-papers and paste-board, are used; and the average annual importation of rags is 10,000 tons. It is estimated that a pound and a half of rags are required to make a pound of paper; and the cost of labour is one and a quarter cent for each pound of paper. The consumption of paper in this country equals that of both England and France.

Departmental Notices.

PRIZES IN SCHOOLS.

The Chief Superintendent will grant one hundred per cent. upon all moneys transmitted to him by Municipalities or Boards of School Trustees for the purchase of books or reward cards for distribution as prizes in Grammar and Common Schools.

PENSIONS—SPECIAL NOTICE TO TEACHERS.

Public notice is hereby given to all Teachers of Common Schools in Upper Canada, who may wish to avail themselves at any future time of the advantages of the Superannuated Common School Teachers' Fund, that it will be necessary for them to transmit to the Chief Superintendent, without delay, if they have not already done so, their annual subscription of \$4, commencing with 1854. The law authorizing the establishment of this fund provides, "that no teacher shall be entitled to share in the said fund who shall not contribute to such fund at least at the rate of one pound per annum." This proviso of the law will be strictly enforced in all cases; and intimation is thus early given to all Teachers, who have not yet sent in their subscriptions, to enable them to comply with the law, and so prevent future misunderstanding or disappointment, when application is made to be placed as a pensioner on the fund.

SCHOOL MAPS AND APPARATUS.

The Legislature having granted annually, from the commencement of 1855, a sufficient sum of money to enable the Department to supply Maps and Apparatus (not text-books) to Grammar and Common Schools, upon the same terms as Library Books are now supplied to Trustees and Municipalities the Chief Superintendent of Education will be happy to add one hundred per cent. to any sum or sums, not less than five dollars, transmitted to the Department; and to forward Maps, Apparatus, Charts, and Diagrams to the value of the amount thus augmented, upon receiving a list of the articles required by the Trustees. In all cases it will be necessary for any person, acting on behalf of the Trustees, to enclose or present a written authority to do so, verified by the corporate seal of the Trustees. A selection of articles to be sent can always be made by the Department, when so desired.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL MASTERS.

The quarterly examination of gentlemen, not possessing an university degree, for the office of Grammar School Masters, takes place in the Normal School buildings, Toronto, on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October. Candidates are requested to send in their names to the Chairman of the Committee, one week previous to the day of examination.

SCHOOL REGISTERS.

School Registers are supplied gratuitously, from the Department, to Grammar and Common School Trustees in Cities, Towns, Villages and Townships by the County Clerks—through the local Superintendents. Application should therefore be made direct to the local Superintendents for them, and not to the Department. The supply for the present year has been sent out.

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SCHOOL FURNITURE.

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Toronto, March 3, 1857.

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All communications to be addressed to Mr. J. GEORGE HODGINS, Education Office, Toronto.

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