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The SCHOOL JOURNAL is now the best medium in the Dominion of Canada for reaching Teachers and Trustees. As a proof of the rapid increase of its circulation ~~137~~ 1100 NEW SUBSCRIBERS have been received from Nova Scotia in January, and 550 FROM NEW BRUNSWICK in February.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1879.

—We are pleased to announce to our friends and readers that the JOURNAL is now receiving a support far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of its founders. It commenced less than two years ago with a few hundred subscribers, and although its patronage, during the first year of its existence, was chiefly confined to Ontario, the subscription list increased very rapidly. It is now largely patronized by the High and Public School Teachers, Inspectors and Trustees of Ontario, and recognized in all the different Provinces as a Dominion instead of a Provincial organ. Nova Scotia has contributed over 1,100 new subscribers since the beginning of the year, and New Brunswick over 550 during the month of February. The province of Quebec gives it a liberal support, and Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia are contributing their quota to augment the subscription list. We accept the number of patrons, now over 6,000, as an indication of increasing interest in educational affairs, and a manifestation of the appreciation in which the JOURNAL is held by teachers and friends of education.

THE ONTARIO SCHOOL BILL.

The Minister of Education for this Province has introduced a Bill into the Legislature amending the School law in various important particulars. With some of the proposed amendments we have no fault to find, and therefore it is unnecessary to dwell upon them; with others we are the reverse of satisfied, and cannot avoid the conviction that, unless the Bill is very much modified in its progress through Parliament, its operation will be fraught with great danger to our School system.

Before saying anything about the provisions of the Bill to which we object, it may not be amiss to call attention to what we regard as a serious defect. We are not, at this stage of our political history, called upon to discuss whether voting by ballot is to be preferred to open voting or not. What does call for consideration is the fact that, in all our political and municipal elections, voting is now carried on exclusively by ballot, and it seems to us only reasonable that the same method should be pursued as far as practicable in School

elections. No one would be so unreasonable as to demand that voting by ballot should be introduced in rural School sections, for instance, because the smallness of the vote and the great number of sections would make the expense enormously great. But in cities and towns where intimidation can be and often is, practised, the ballot ought to be used. In this respect there should be no distinction made between Public and Separate Schools, and we regret to see that, at this writing, there seems to be little chance of securing the passage of any amendment in favor of the ballot in connection with either.

To us the most objectionable feature of the Bill is the section putting a veto on School Board expenditures in the hands of City and Town Councils, provided the veto is sustained by a two-thirds majority in each case. We admit that the powers vested in School Boards under the Act as it now stands are very arbitrary, but we cannot recall any instance in which they have been abused. Take the case of Toronto, for example. Every year there is a great outcry during the municipal elections against the expenditure incurred in the erection and enlargement of school houses, and if this provision becomes law there can be little doubt that two-thirds of the City Council will be ready to vote at any time to keep down such expenditures. And yet the school houses in this city do not furnish anything like the amount of accommodation prescribed by law for even the children in actual attendance, to say nothing of those who ought to be compelled to attend school under the compulsory clauses of the Act. As the population of a city or town increases the school accommodation must increase with it, and the Minister of Education, if he does not consent to modify the section in question, will find that in many places where the accommodation is now merely straitened, it will soon become utterly inadequate, and the law on this point will become a dead letter, as it virtually is now in Toronto. Why introduce one legal provision to destroy the effect of another? If City Councils are willing to furnish the funds required by the School Boards for the erection of school houses, then there will be no inclination to exercise this veto power; if they are not willing to do so, then they should not be allowed to exercise it until the accommodation is ample.

We have also a very decided objection to the section of the Bill authorizing the Department to hand over library and prize books from the Depository in payment of the 100 per cent. addition to the sums invested in such books by trustees. Since 1874 School Boards have had the option of purchasing their books wherever they pleased, and we submit that there is no reason for taking away from them now the liberty of doing so. No evil effect has followed the change of system then inaugurated, unless it be the accumulation of stock on the Depository book shelves. If such accumulation is the reason for introducing this section into the Bill, then we submit that a better and more obvious remedy would be to adapt the purchases to the sales. The expediency of maintaining the Depository in existence at all has been often discussed in Parliament, and the Minister of Education has more than once stated that he had the whole matter under consideration. While it is in this position it would surely be most