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# THE INSTRUCTOR, FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

EDITED BY ALEXANDER MUNRO,

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No. 3.

## Books, Books, Books,

ARE now the order of the day ; to be without them, is neither more nor less than to be exiled from society's intellectual chart. If we compare ourselves in this respect, with what our race once was, not a long time ago ; when it cost forty pounds to procure a copy of the Scriptures, and even very recently it cost as many pounds as it now costs shillings, to secure the Old and New Testaments. In fact there are more books to be found in the peasant's humble cottage, of the day, than were to be found, less than one hundred years ago, in the stately mansions of many of the nobility of England and France. The family or community, in these days, without books, are blanks, so far as intelligence is concerned, in the community in which they live.

In addition to the necessity that exists for books, and the real advantages arising out of their use, they are not

unfrequently purchased merely for house furniture. Our parlor tables and shelves are, in modern nomenclature, *groaning* under the weight of books and periodical literature. In "olden times," the existence of a small library of a hundred volumes was a novelty, now the non-existence is the exception.

But, notwithstanding the millions of volumes of books in circulation, the thousands of public libraries in being, and the hundreds of thousands of private libraries scattered over the length and breadth of the land ; there are *exceptions* not a few. There are scores of families even in the Lower Provinces of British America, that neither have books, nor could they read them if they had, except—for we always like to make exceptions in this way when we can—some Yankee (quack) medical almanacs, and legislative journals, which sometimes accompany each

other in consequence of their gratuitous distribution; but the librarians, in consequence of their inability to read, cannot apply the panaceas set forth in the former, nor can they understand the importance of the laws "being enacted" as mentioned in the latter. Though there are many such families and some such communities without books and the ability to read; communities that are still a law unto themselves, which is not easily encroached upon by the refinements that schools and books are calculated to impart; still it is wonderful to see the advances made in the circulation of books, periodicals, and newspapers. We can point to several large communities where the original denizens could not read, but not so of their offspring,—they are taught to read from early childhood, and as they grow in years they increase their store of books. In truth the acquisition of books and the formation of libraries is becoming fashionable, for "it's better to be out of the world than out of the fashion." Books are as much a necessary part of parlor furniture as the tables on which they lie. And the wonderful cheapness of literature adds powerfully to our facilities for acquiring books. Our facilities for acquiring knowledge being so great, one might almost be led to the conclusion that every one living within the precincts of these facilities would be a kind of circulating library.

But in the face of all these advantages we are sometimes inclined to ask, whether arbitrary fashion is not exercising a power over our literary

acquisitions; are we not purchasing books for "fashion's sake"? more for parlor furniture than that of the mind. However, there might be worse fashions than that of purchasing a few neatly bound books as parlor furniture, even if the possessors should fail to read them. One would feel very small, if on being asked a simple question, and had for the want of knowledge, to refer the interrogator to the parlor table for information. The possession of books now-days does not always imply a knowledge of their teachings.

We have not unfrequently lodged in respectable houses, inhabited by interesting families, and parlor tables loaded with books, but to our astonishment the youth were seldom allowed to peruse them for fear of tarnishing or destroying their appearance.—In one case we remember seeing a young man of twenty years open a book, "the History of the World, Ancient and Modern," and commence reading, when the good lady of the house, who liked the appearance of books in a house, so she said, ordered him to "let that book alone, you will only destroy it."

This reminds us of the story of an Irishman, who, when ascending a stair, walked one foot on each side for fear of soiling the carpet. So it was with the lady,—she would rather that her family remain ignorant of the world, ancient and modern, than her books, her parlor furniture, should be tarnished. We fear it will be a long time before such families will learn much of the world outside of their own dwellings. It is a miserable affair to

allow a family of young people to spend their long winter evenings in running from house to house, in useless conversation and frivolous and unprofitable amusements, while books are so cheap and easily obtained.

Books are not published merely to ornament our dwellings, but to be read and studied by all; and if we read them a second time, we will find them the same old friends with unchanged faces.

Every subject of human enquiry is now made so plain, that "he who runs may read, and he who reads may understand;" consequently it is a shame to have books in our houses, and otherwise so easily accessible, and not read them. It is impossible to take our place upon the platform of society, and fulfil its requirements, and remain ignorant.

Reading is the most important part of our education; no matter if we have sat at the feet of all the Gamaliels of the day, and do not extend our knowledge by reading, study, reflection, observation, and application, we will be but poor scholars in the end. We should procure good books and devote all our available time to their study; we should shun bad books as we should bad company; it is by becoming acquainted with the master minds of the past and the present, that the mind becomes ennobled and enriched with the treasures of knowledge, and ultimately fitted for a more lofty state of existence.

In direct contrast with the act of the lady who forbid her son reading the book for fear of injuring its beau-

tiful exterior, stands a class of readers, who procure books merely for the purpose of glancing at their pages, and having it said that they have read so many books; and when read, or rather not read with the understanding, they are cast aside to mould, or given to the children to tear to pieces. Only the other day we saw a child tearing a copy of the New Testament to pieces, without a word of complaint by its parents, who witnessed the act; anything to keep the little ones quiet,—even the most valuable books.

People should remember, that to produce a useful work, of any magnitude, months, and may be years of hard thinking, is required in its production, besides the expenditure of a large amount of money in getting it into circulation; then to have it lie upon a parlor table as a mere ornament, unread, or if read, at the rate of fifty to eighty pages a day, and when so glanced at, committed to oblivion or destruction, is neither respecting the author nor his works of usefulness, nor adding to the usefulness of the possessor.

There are some who subscribe for books and papers as an act of kindness to their authors, or agents, and not from their need of information, or any benefit that they expect to derive from the perusal of the works; however, such people seldom read.

While canvassing for subscribers for the *Instructor*, we found those who subscribed because they had a taste for reading and a desire to see their families read and become intelligent and useful members of the commu-

nity. There were others who talked thus:—"No time to read—family—don't know how it is, have no taste for reading, have no books, don't take papers; but, being that its you, I'll take the Instructor."

The importance of studious reading is justly set forth in the following paragraph from the *Prairie Farmer*:—

#### DO WE READ TOO MUCH?

We gravely give opinions Where did we get them? Have we any reasons for those opinions? If so, are they the result of a shut-up-by-ourselves-alone-brown-study? Or do we but echo what some one else has thought, written and we have read? How much progress do we make? Read carefully. Think at least two sentences, while reading one. We do not see men sitting down to think. They sit to read. The boy at school who studied least, apparently, always had a good lesson. The boy who was constantly making his lips move, and repeating words—who was apparently so studious—grew up a block-head. He memorized the words, but knew nothing of them. The thinking man's mind is his kingdom—it is a fountain constantly overflowing with living thoughts. They are novel and vigorous, because his own. If men read, it should be *with a purpose*. If they read to kill time, the time thus employed, is worse than lost—it is squandered. Better think. A man cannot be agreeable company for other people, who finds no pleasure or profit in his own thoughts.

#### Statistics.—New Brunswick,—1859.

There are now before us, the Educational, Railway, Public Works, Agricultural, and other reports, for which we thank Abner R. McLellan, M.P.P., Albert; and also the Post Master

General's Report, kindly furnished us by the head of that Department.

We proceed to lay before our readers the substance of these reports, comparing them where necessary, with those of former reports, in order to show the progress, if any, made.

These reports are important, inasmuch as they show how the public affairs of the Province are managed, and how a large part of the public monies are expended, and for what purposes. Those feeling an interest in this matter, which all should do, would do well to preserve this, as they should all copies of the Instructor, for future reference.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

Political changes in the general management of the State, frequently produce changes in the principle officers; but this time the stern messenger death, has caused the change in the head of the educational department of New Brunswick. After nearly three years of incessant toil, in trying to systemize the present school machinery of this Province, Mr. Fisher has left the business of this department for others to manage. Mr. Bennet has assumed the direction of the educational machinery; and from his antecedents, having been for a long time a successful teacher, and also an Inspector of Schools, we are not without hopes that he will be the means of effecting some improvements in our educational movements.

The report before us is more full than those of former years; though, says Mr. Bennet, "the late Superintendent left no report behind him, . . .

... neither are there any materials at hand, except the Reports of the Inspectors and Training Masters, from which to make a compilation that shall exhibit with anything like certainty, the state of our educational institutions during the past year." Consequently, with such meagre materials, out of which to compile a report, we could not expect much better things.

The following TABULAR REPORT will show the state of the elementary schools for the last four years:—

| Years | No. of Schools | Classification |     |     | Male | Female |
|-------|----------------|----------------|-----|-----|------|--------|
|       |                | 1. r.          | 2d. | 3d. |      |        |
| 1856  | 876            | 183            | 161 | 522 | 455  |        |
| 1857  | 892            | 216            | 172 | 466 | 415  |        |
| 1858  | 762            | 169            | 136 | 460 | 340  |        |
| 1859  | 818            | 223            | 176 | 431 | 367  |        |

  

| Years | No. of Pupils. | Paid by Govern'r. | Paid by People. |
|-------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1856  | 29,977         | £20,639           | £16,675         |
| 1857  | 30,720         | £21,473           | £16,234         |
| 1858  | 24,138         | £21,122           | £13,161         |
| 1859  | 25,758         | £20,162           | £13,165         |

Religious denomination of teachers is thus given:—

1857—268 Episcopal; 198 R. Catholic; 148 Presb.; 144 Meth.; 237 Bap.; and 8 others.

1859—146 Episcopal; 157 R. Catholic; 135 Presb.; 95 Meth.; 185 Bap.; and 71 others.

DISCREPANCIES.—By abstract of table A "the whole No. of Schools" in 1859, is set down at 785

Abstract of table B gives 818

And the average number is 806

Again, the whole number of pupils who attended school during 1859, by abs. of table A is 23,682

By abstract of table B 25,758

And the average attendance is 13,760

Inspector Campbell's Report shows the total attendance of pupils at school in his district to be 8,537, while the tabulated report does not show so many by 159.

Inspector McLoughlin's report gives

6147 as the number who attended school in his district, while the tabulated report sets the number down at 5,665.

We do not pretend to say which of these statements is correct; but we do think, that the Province is paying enough to Inspectors and others to ensure the execution of reports that are more reliable than those before us.

Of the 25,758 pupils reported to have attended the elementary schools, 13,770 were males, 11,988 were females; of the whole number 23,759 were studying spelling, 21,216 reading, 16,503 writing, 15,074 arithmetic, 3,298 common needlework, 5,635 English grammar, 6,488 geography, 2,912 history, 470 book-keeping, 204 geometry, 254 mensuration, 60 land surveying, 41 navigation, 234 algebra.

We are somewhat at a loss to assign a reason for so many pupils studying Algebra, and so few studying the more practical branches, Land Surveying and Navigation.

There are 12 Superior Schools, distributed as follows:—Carleton 2, Northumberland 2, Restigouche 1, Saint John 3, Sunbury 1, Westmorland 1, and York 2. The total amount of Government allowance to this class of schools is £851, and £466 paid by the inhabitants. Total number of pupils 808, of whom 734 were learning to spell, 732 to read, and so in proportion of the other elementary branches; while there were 56 students in geometry, 61 in mensuration, 24 in land surveying, 17 navigation, and 69 in algebra; here again, the proportion studying algebra is large.

**TRAINING SCHOOL.**—The number of pupil students in attendance at this school in 1859 was 208; making the total of trained teachers in the province 619. The number admitted during the year was 115 young women, and 42 young men, exclusive of those in attendance at the commencement of the year.

With reference to "the great growing disproportion" in the language of the report, "between the number of male and female teachers," Mr. Bennett says, "we have more female teachers already than the country wishes to employ, or is likely to profit by."

Of **SCHOOL HOUSES**, 54 have been erected during the year.

Fourteen **LIBRARIES**, containing 946 volumes, have been established, at a cost of £117, one third of the expense of which was paid by the Province.—And nine book agencies have been established during the year.

Among the expenditures for educational purposes, £53 16s.,—part of a sum voted by the Legislature many years ago, for the purpose of procuring French books for the French people—has been expended in obtaining books from Canada.

We cannot see the propriety of nursing a foreign language in the midst of an English colony, where all business is conducted in English, and where the English language does, and must prevail. That an extra effort should be made to educate, and otherwise elevate the French people, who form nearly one fourth the population of the Province, is beyond dispute; it is a

disgrace to the spirit of the age, and to the character of New Brunswick to allow 45 or 50,000 people to live in our country in gross ignorance; not ten thousand of whom can read in any language.

Many of the French are miserably poor, and not able, if so inclined, to educate their children; consequently, we would say,—let the government establish free English schools at the public expense, in every community which is not able to support schools for itself; continue this support for four or five years, or until the mass of the French people can read and write in the English language. Until some such course is pursued, these people, who have good natural abilities, will continue and increase among us as a distinct, and unlettered people, and never be able to take their place among the useful and intelligent denizens of the country.

**SCHOOL INSPECTION.**—With reference to the inspection system, as it exists in New Brunswick, we have long ago considered it an imposition upon the public; not but what the present inspectors are fully competent for the task; neither do we say that £250 each, £1000 in the whole, is too much for the amount of travelling they have to do. But we firmly believe that the Trustees are the proper officers to do this duty. We hold that the elementary schools are the institutions of the people, and that the people should have control of them, and the trustees be paid for their services.

When the schools were inspected

four times a year, as under the previous law, infinitely greater justice was done; every school was examined at some time during the year; but at present an hour is spent in each school, or intended to be, twice a year, and the Province pays ONE THOUSAND POUNDS per annum for it. Let the Trustees do the duty and be paid for it, and we have no doubt but what education will obtain a fresh stimulus.

The following table shows the amount of monies paid under the respective heads named in the table:—

| Years. | Superintendent and Clerks. | Inspectors. | Paid to Incidental Expenses. | Paid to Pupil Teachers. | Salaries of Training Masters, &c. | Amount paid other Institutions. | Total amt. paid for Educational purposes. |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1855   | £209                       | £1,304      | £390                         | £312                    | £6,100                            |                                 |   |
| 1856   | 270                        | 1,350       | 342                          | 476                     | 6,395                             |                                 | £8,733                                    |
| 1857   | 250                        | 1,320       | 354                          | 443                     | 6,541                             |                                 | 8,183                                     |
| 1858   | 494                        | 1,263       | 60                           | 474                     | 362                               | 6,258                           | 41,242                                    |
| 1859   | 558                        | 1,600       | 557                          | 718                     | 450                               | 6,608                           | 40,436                                    |

A glance at the foregoing table will show how the "money goes." In 1855 the total amount paid to Superintendent and Clerks, Inspectors, Pupil Teachers, Training Masters, and other incidental charges, was £2,113, when 27,744 pupils attended school; while in 1859 these services cost £3,283, and only 25,778 pupils attended school.—We have no objections to the additional expenditure of £1,170, if the Province received value for it; neither do we pretend to compare the blessings of education with the expenditure of a few hundreds or even thousands of pounds; we take a higher standpoint than this; still, it must be acknowledged that the amount expended

are entirely disproportioned to the benefits received.

**SECTARIAN INSTITUTIONS.**—The amount annually paid to sectarian Institutions of education from the revenues of the Province is not less than £5,000; of this sum the Episcopalians, Methodists, Roman Catholics, and Baptists get a part; the Presbyterians have not yet made a claim of this nature, and we hope they never will ask for public money to support a denominational institution of education.

The following remarks from the *Courier* is to the point:—

"We hope the day is not far distant when a direct assessment for the support of schools will be levied throughout the Province; and when all denominational grants to schools will be swept from the statute book. The Executive must learn to know no distinctions of sects in this respect. If any religious denomination, or body, are desirous of teaching the youth of their communion secular knowledge after their own fashion; let them do so at their own costs, irrespective of aid from the public funds. We are pleased to find public opinion healthy upon this point; and that preparations to avert the pecuniary difficulties attendant upon the withdrawal of the provincial grants to certain influential institutions, are already in progress, and that no opposition will be offered to this common sense policy from such establishments."

Then, in the language of the Superintendent of Education,—"With good common schools, the superior schools and the university, each mutually nourishing and fostering the other, there will be opened up to the sons of rich and poor alike, and within the bounds of our Province, a direct road

to such an education as shall fit them for the proper discharge of all the ordinary duties of life, as well as for the highest offices of the State."

#### RAILWAY REPORT.

By this report we are informed that £854,345 have been expended in railway construction in New Brunswick. The gross receipts on the part finished is £14,797, which is nearly all except £667, absorbed in working expenses. The amount expended during the fiscal year 1859, is £320,266. Total distance of road in running order, is 64 miles. The number of locomotives employed is eleven. The number of passengers carried east and west during the year, were 110,581, at an average cost of two cents per mile.—Average speed of trains, including stopages, fifteen miles per hour.—Land damages and other incidental charges £11,003. The remainder of the road, from Sussex to Moncton, fifty miles, will be finished by the autumn of 1860.

We can hardly dismiss this report, and refrain noticing the odd names given to some of the locomotives and stopping places; for instance, Ossekeag, Apohaqui, Perobsqui's, Loostank, etc. We hope travellers will not conclude, from this array of Indian names, every thing is Indian among us, and that the inhabitants of this Province are actually living in the midst of Indian squalor.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

The amount expended by this department in 1859 was for roads etc., £22,932. The number of great roads is 60; total length of which is 2201 miles. We give the lengths of some of the roads as furnished by this report, which will be of service to travellers, etc.

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| From St. John to Nova Scotia line | 132 miles. |
| “ “ to St. Andrews                | 66 “       |
| “ Bend to Shediac                 | 15 “       |

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| From Dorchester to Shediac     | 16 miles. |
| “ Shediac to Richibucto        | 36 “      |
| “ Richibucto to Chatham        | 40 “      |
| “ Miramichi to Pokemouche      | 62 “      |
| “ Bathurst to Pakemeneche      | 51 “      |
| “ Bathurst to Belledune        | 23 “      |
| “ Belledune to Metis           | 62 “      |
| “ Newcastle to Bathurst        | 50 “      |
| “ Fredericton to Newcastle     | 102 “     |
| “ “ to St. John                | 66 “      |
| “ “ Woodstock                  | 63 “      |
| “ Woodstock to River duChute   | 40 “      |
| “ River duChute to G'd. Falls  | 33 “      |
| “ G'd. Falls to Can. Boundary  | 50 “      |
| “ Little Falls to St. Francis  | 32 “      |
| “ Woodstock to Houlton         | 11 “      |
| “ Fredericton to St. Andrews   | 78 “      |
| “ Salisbury to Harvey          | 44 “      |
| “ St. John to Quaco            | 30 “      |
| “ Nerepis to Gagetown          | 23 “      |
| “ Fredericton to Jemseg        | 30 “      |
| “ Jemseg to Finger Board       | 29 “      |
| “ Sackville to Cape Termentine | 42 “      |

#### POST MASTER GENERAL'S REPORT

For 1859, is more full and complete than any of its predecessors. The names of 1,212 places in New Brunswick are given, to which letters may be addressed; which will be found useful to business men. The amount collected during the year is £7,064.—Cost of conveying the mails £7,200. Salaries of thirty nine Post Masters is £4,002, exclusive of other charges; while the salaries of 250 way office keepers only amounts in the whole to £653. The estimated number of letters passing through were 580,000; newspapers 1,520,000; letters registered 10,681, and parcels 809. Number of letters sent to the United States were 147,998, and those received 146,682. The Postal revenue does not meet the expenditure by £5,500.

REMARKS.—The additional cost incurred by creating the postal office a departmental office is upwards of £2,000 per annum; while the work was much better done by Mr. Howe, at a salary of £400, which he still receives.

This office, along with that of the Commissioner of Public Works, were never asked for by the people, and might be easily dispensed with, which would save over £3,000 per annum to the Province, and the work be as well done as it is at present. When we take into account our limited and scattered population, small revenue, undeveloped resources and other drawbacks; it must be admitted that extravagance is our motto, rather than our exception. Thousands of pounds with us are but small matters, when a government wants to make places for their friends.

We have a Post Master General, Commissioner of Public Works, Solicitor General, and Surveyor General, holding seats at the Council Board, and in the Legislature, for which they receive fees, in addition to stated salaries; while the Chairman of the Railway Board, expending £200,000, per annum, and in 1859 £329,256, has no voice in the Legislature. In the one case we keep half a dozen Generals, some collecting, others expending, and all living on the money of the people, the revenue, which seldom amounts to more than half the amount expended in 1859 by an irresponsible Railway Board.

#### Literature.

There are now before us reprints of three of the great English Quarterly Reviews, published by Messrs. L. Scott & Co., New York, namely:—The Edinburgh, London Quarterly, and North British,—for the first months of 1860.

Our want of space forbids us entering in detail upon the merits of the various articles comprised in these volumes. These works are unsurpassed for lofty style, close reasoning and truthful delineations; every page presents an aristocratical development of mind. They are the very cream of British Literature. The contributors

to these Reviews are men of superior attainments in every department of literature; and no one desirous of keeping pace with the literature and highest intellectual developments of the age, should be without, at least, one of these Reviews.

Books that receive creditable notice in these Reviews, are sure of meeting with a rapid sale; while these works, the merits of which do not meet the approbation of the reviewers, seldom pay the costs of publication. Such is the influence these Reviews exercise over the public mind of Great Britain, and even over a large portion of America.

These three Reviews, along with the Westminster Review and Blackwood's Magazine, cost in England thirty one dollars; while Messrs. Scott & Co. republish them at the low price of three dollars per annum. It is said the American Publishers pay the British nearly one thousand pounds yearly for being allowed to issue a reprint of these Reviews.

The Edinburgh:—This venerable Review was started by Lord Brouham, Lord John Russell and other leading Whigs.

The London Quarterly was established in opposition to the Edinburgh, and is the great Conservative supporter of Church and State.

The North British is highly Orthodox, and well worthy a place in every library.

The Westminster Review, Liberal, is opposed to the union of Church and State; and although it represents high literary ability, it sometimes inculcates dangerous errors.

Blackwood's Magazine, Conservative, takes a middle ground between novels and the Reviews; it is said to have a circulation of 40,000 copies.

Each of these Reviews is the organ of a great party; and each takes a high stand in the field of literature.

Among the various literature before

us, though not having so world-wide a reputation as the Reviews, still, occupy a high place within the spheres of their circulation, may be named:—

The Journal of Education, Canada West. This Monthly is ably edited by Dr. Ryerson, Superintendent of Education, to whom Upper Canada is deeply indebted, not only for her present excellent system of education, but for the manner in which knowledge has been so generally diffused throughout this valuable section of British America.

The Journal of Education, Canada East, is conducted with great ability by the Hon. J. O. Chavean, Superintendent of Public Instruction, in two editions, French and English. Since the establishment of these papers and the system of Education which they represent and foster, education and the spread of books have made great advances.

The Journal of Education and Agriculture, Nova Scotia, is ably conducted by Dr. Forrester, Superintendent of Education; through the means of this paper education and agriculture are being systematized, and their importance forcibly, though familiarly brought before the mind of the people.

Copies of the Working Farmer, Genesee Farmer, Prairie Farmer, and Country Gentleman, for the current year are also before us; they contain much information that is valuable to the Agriculturist, Gardener, and Husbandry in general.

"How to Live and Breathe," contains its usual amount of useful knowledge. We think the introduction of this little monthly into our families would be of great service, as well in the cure of diseases as for the means set forth for the prevention. It contains about half the amount of reading matter contained in the Instructor, and sold at one dollar per annum.—  
Edited by Moses Brown, M.D., Boston.

The Scientific American, a weekly

paper of 16 pages; sets forth in the most familiar manner, the principle inventions and improvements in the various arts and mechanical operations of the age; besides, it contains much general information. The illustrations are beautifully executed. No mechanic who is desirous of advancing in his art, no matter what that art may be, should be without the Scientific American. It is published at the remarkably low price of two dollars per annum.

### AGRICULTURE.

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE or Farmer's Parliament, consists of eighteen members, including a representative from each county. Two meetings have been held in Fredericton, one in February, the other in March last; the results of the deliberations of the Board is published in a small pamphlet; from which we make several quotations.

The first meeting was principally occupied in arranging preliminary matters and in organization.

George Kerr, M. P. P., was elected Chairman, and Dr. Robb, Secretary, the latter with a salary of £150 per annum, and each member was allowed ten shillings per day and travelling expenses, but no fees or expenses to be allowed to those members of the Board who were sitting in the Legislature.

The Board divided itself into Committees, each of which have reported many useful improvements, if carried out.

A Provincial Exhibition is to be held at Sussex Vale, in Kings County, on the 2d, 3d, and 4th October 1861. Some of the leading points embraced by the various reports submitted, are:—the importation of stock, the revision of legislative enactments touching the interests of agriculture; the permanent location of county or district shows, and "the management

and workings of county societies and their branches."

On all these topics, useful information is given, and many suggestions that, if acted upon, will no doubt prove beneficial.

"In addition to the statistics contained in the last Census Reports, . . . replies to any one or all of the subjoined queries, to be addressed to the secretary on or before 31st October next, are respectfully solicited from societies or individuals."

1. Does immigration into your District proceed, and at what rate?

2. Has there been much emigration from your District; to what extent, and why? Where do the emigrants go?

3. What special Agricultural difficulties does your District labour under?

4. What special advantages does your District possess?

5. Are new Settlements forming or old ones extending in your District?

6. Would you suggest any measures to favour settlement of Wild Lands, and spread of farming in your district?

7. What soils do you find to be most available? Can you name any localities of Lime, Plaster, or Marl?

8. What crops do you find to be most profitable?

9. What is the condition of Wheat culture in your District?

10. What is the condition of Corn, Potatoe, and Clover culture?

11. What extent of Draining has been done in your district, and how has it paid?

12. What natural manures do you possess in your district?

13. Have you tried imported manures to any extent in your district, and with what results?

14. What can you afford to pay for Lime or Plaster for Manure?

15. Does any special branch of Farming take the lead in your county?

16. What are the chief products so'd from your farms?

17. What amount of imported farm stuffs are required by your county?

18. Do you know of any remedies for the wheat rust, the wheat fly, or the potatoe rot?

19. Are manures generally composted, or not?

20. Is the importance of warmth to cattle recognized as a substitute, so far, for food?

21. How does lumbering influence agriculture?

22. Do gardens extend? Do apples thrive in your district? Have the grafted kinds been profitable?

23. Can you offer any information concerning the use of imported manures on land?

24. How does Bee culture succeed with you; what difficulties have you with it?

25. Can you suggest any special object of encouragement to the county Societies, or to the Provincial Board of Agriculture, or to the Legislature?

26. Can you offer any suggestions as to Provincial Exhibitions?

27. Can you offer any specimens of Farm Accounts Current, showing the profit or loss of the business?

28. Have you seen many new or improved implements of value introduced into your district? What are they? Will they pay? What others would you wish to see introduced?

29. How many Reaping or Mowing Machines do you know of in your county or district?

30. What breeds of cattle prevail in your district?

31. What is your experience of pure breeds and crosses? What variety of horse, cow, ox, sheep, and pig, do you consider best for your county?—Do long or short-wooled sheep do best with you?

32. Are there any local diseases of stock, or remedies?

33. Do wolves, or bears, or dogs affect you much? Would you suggest any change of the Law concerning

wild animals or dogs, as affecting the farmer?

34. What demand is there for farm labour in your district?

35. What has been the influence—good or bad—of Agricultural Societies on the agriculture of your district?—Are there any Farmers' Clubs, and what results? What is most wanted in your opinion to advance the agriculture of your district?

36. Do you think that agricultural teaching can be introduced into the common schools of the country?

37. What rotation of crops prevails in your district? What improvements in it would you suggest?

38. Can you quote many individual instances of prosperity from land culture in your district?

39. Does culture of turnips or mangolds increase? What do you think of them as compared with potatoes or hay, as food for stock?

40. Does drainage pay in your locality? What kind of drains are cheapest and best?

41. Have you tried deep and sub-soil ploughing, and with what results?

42. Do you know of any disease affecting the grasses?

43. Have you tried field peas and with what results?

44. Does it serve best to plough in manure in spring or fall, or to use it as top-dressing?

45. Are Agricultural Journals read in your district?

46. Are there any Agricultural Libraries?

47. Have you used guano or bone dust, and with what results?

48. Have you tried green manures as a means of restoring land?

49. Have you used hay, straw, and turnip-cutting machines, and with what advantage?

50. Have you used linseed cake, and with what results?

51. Are manures generally made under cover? Is liquid manure saved?

52. What is the average clip of wool with you?

53. Do you make, or can you furnish any meteorological observations or facts concerning climate as affecting agriculture?

The Board offers three prizes to the value of fifteen pounds, ten pounds, and five pounds, respectively, for the first, second, and third best Essays upon the Agricultural History and condition of any one or more of the Counties of the Province; to be lodged with the Secretary of the Board by the last of October next. The following suggestions are given by way of assisting Essayists:—General introduction, geographical or topographical description of country, physical features, geographical features, rocks, soils, natural products, population, towns, villages, settlements; Pioneers, individual cases; markets and communications, farming statistics, land, crops, labour, manures, immigration and emigration, influence of agricultural societies and exhibitions, advantages, difficulties, suggestions and general conclusions.

We have already devoted more space to this Report than the limited pages of the Instructor warrant; but as the conclusion of the first annual session of the Board of Agriculture is so ably conducted, we publish it in conclusion:—

“While it is to be observed that notices contained in the appendix of this little pamphlet are to be held as official, and regarded by all those who receive the same as full and sufficient notice to them personally, so far as relates to the subject in hand, the attention of all persons engaged in Agriculture, or interested in its progress in New Brunswick, is called to the Queries given before, and to the Essays referred to in the preceding Notice.

The Secretaries and Officers of County and District Agricultural So-

cieties are especially invited to prepare and send in an account of the Agricultural condition of their own particular localities. Much useful information is known to be embodied in the Annual Reports of Societies which are now scattered, but of which files may remain with the respective Societies.

The task of tracing the gradual progress of each County from the state of hunting grounds to that of smiling fields and well tilled farms, is a most interesting one, and if the present generation pass away without engaging in it, the thread of the narrative may be broken, and the story pass into oblivion.

No battles are more full of interest than those of man with nature; no triumphs more noble than those which are won by civilization over barbarism; and no monuments seem more praiseworthy than those which are dedicated to the cause of Agriculture.

Each man may in his own sphere contribute something to the general result; and with a little effort and industry, the history of local progress among us may yet be recovered from oblivion. If the difficulties of the past have been overcome by the strong arms and patient endurance of the early settlers of this Province, there are surely no obstacles before us now which can be considered more serious than those which THEY encountered and subdued; let us therefore not prove degenerate, but by the example of their efforts, and by the aid of the foundations laid by them, press ever forward, until the products of our fields sustain and clothe the population of the country, and those of the forest and the mine, the factory, the sea, and the ship-yard, become our proper sources of wealth rather than the means of mere subsistence.

We have attained to a high position already, and one which we conceive to be at least equal to that attained by

any other people in the same time, acting under similar natural conditions. The Province is politically free, commercially progressive, and agriculturally prosperous. Let us hope that even these good things only indicate the dawn before the day.

“HOW SHALL WE IMPROVE?” asks a correspondent in the Boston Cultivator, I answer, (he says), from experience,—sell a part of the farm for money, and expend it on the remainder. My farm consisted of 160 acres when I purchased it. There were not many improvements, and I was unable to make them. Still I was aware of the necessity of fencing, ditching, &c., but had not the means. I finally concluded that I had not sufficient capital to carry on so large a farm, and accordingly sold a part, which reduced it to about ninety acres. This enabled me to drain, fence, and make other improvements, and the result was that the land I had left was worth more than the whole had previously been.—I got more crops with less expense, besides having the interest and taxes on the part sold. I am well convinced that one half, or more, of our farmers undertake to carry on more land than they are able to manage to advantage for lack of capital; therefore I would make capital with a part of our farms.

AYRSHIRES AS MILKERS.—The Springfield Republican says, Mr. Birnie, of Hampden, Mass., keeps a large herd of Shorthorn and Ayrshire cows, and gives a decided preference to the latter as milkers. In proportion to the food they eat, he says no breed can surpass them in yield of milk. He has one Ayrshire cow weighing about 800 lbs., that has averaged more than her weight per month in milk since April last, and a two-year-old heifer, the daughter of the above cow, that is now in milk, and gives 20 lbs. per day.

**THE BENEFIT OF KEEPING THE SURFACE SOIL MELLOW.**—The Country Gentleman claims that if the surface soil around a young fruit tree is kept mellow, and daily stirred through the growing season to the depth of one or two inches, the growth of the tree will be more than double, and sometimes quadruple what it would have been had the soil remained undisturbed, or been kept in grass.—This stirred soil acts as a slight mulch, and prevents the evaporation of the moisture in the soil during the hot days in the summer and the too great radiation of heat at night. On the same principle, it advocates the application of a surface coat of manure on winter wheat in autumn, and the mulching of all dwarf pear trees at the approach of winter.

**EVERY FARMER SHOULD HAVE HIS WORKSHOP.**—So says the Wisconsin Farmer. And every farmer should be mechanic enough to mend all the small breakages that occur on the farm, instead of losing time and patience in sending to the village to have the work done. Besides this, when a wet day comes, the boys will interest themselves in learning to become practical mechanics, instead of moping round the house.

The *Genesee Farmer*, in answer to one of its correspondents, on "Amusements for Farmers and their Families," says,—“No children ever loved home any the better for being eternally scolded at. Scolding, like smoking and chewing tobacco, is all a matter of habit. I knew of an old lady in an adjoining town, who was so much in the habit of scolding that she could not read a chapter in the Bible without *scolding it out.*”

It is said that there is not less than 8,061 languages spoken in the world.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### County of Albert.

We have often referred with pleasure to this fine Agricultural County, and one of the richest in minerals in the Lower Provinces; and with equal pleasure we again refer to it. Our esteemed correspondent, who has manifested much interest in the prosperity of Albert says:—

“I am convinced, the resources of this County are as yet in the earliest stage of development,—copper, slake and manganese are abundant, and will, I trust, be soon exported.

The rush of settlers, or applicants under the labour act is enormous in this county at present, and were it not for the blocks of land held by non-residents for speculation purposes, every lot would very soon be settled. In the parish of Elgin alone, 11,679 acres are granted in lots of over 200 acres each, and upwards of 10,000 acres are held by non-residents, some of whom live in England,—you see the great hardship of this—poor settlers are compelled to make roads over these lands to the benefit of speculators.”

This system of granting lands is not confined to Albert; there are many other sections of New Brunswick where hardships of this nature exist to a still greater extent, and tends to retard the progress of the country.

We thank our Correspondent for tables showing the exports from the Parishes of Hillsborough and Harvey, County of Albert, for the year 1859.—We make the following extracts:—

**HILLSBOROUGH** exported—coal 10,441 tons, valued at £38,832; gypsum 3680 tons, value £2380; potatoes 2575 bushels, value £301; sleepers 2550 pieces, value £149; shale 112 tons, value £361; stone 1996 tons, value £2328; and wood 50 cords, value £29; amounting in the aggregate to £44,271.

**HARVEY** exported—boards and scantling, butter, hay, building stone, vege-

tables, wood, deals, laths and birch timber, to the value of £8786.

These figures show the healthy condition of these parishes, which, if taken as an index to the other sections of the county, shows Albert to be in a prosperous condition.

**CENSUS.**—The census of New Brunswick are to be taken during the summer of 1860. We hope they will be taken with more care and be more full than those of former years.

#### A List of Interesting Paragraphs.

**STATISTICS—BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.**—The two Canadas have an area of 250,000 square miles, with a population of 3,000,000; New Brunswick 27,000 square miles, with a population of 225,000; Nova Scotia 18,746 square miles, with a population of 300,000; Prince Edward Island 2,134 square miles, with a population of 75,000; and Newfoundland 57,000 square miles with a population of 120,000;—total area of these five provinces 553,446 square miles, and aggregate population 3,720,000.

**SPRING PIGS.**—Numerous experiments have shown that pork may be made most profitably of spring pigs, kept growing as rapidly as consistent with health until fall.

**TAXATION.**—The Chancellor of the British Exchequer speaking of taxation says:—"I do not hesitate to say that it is a mistake to suppose that the best mode of giving benefit to the labouring classes is simply to operate on the articles consumed by them. If you want to do them the *maximum* of good, you should rather operate on the articles which give the *maximum* of employment."

**COAL MINES.**—There are about 300 human beings continually employed in the coal mines of England.

**BARK LOUSE.**—The best remedy for the *bark louse* on your apple trees is to scrub the trees thoroughly with a stiff brush and soap suds in the month of June, when the insects are young; we would advise you not to make use of tar and oil for that purpose.

**BLUEBERRY.**—Several varieties of this berry exist in the British Provinces, they belong to the same order as the huckleberry. The common blueberry is a low shrub from eight to fifteen inches in height; it grows on poor hungry soils, such as dry caribou barrens, where the fire has run. The berries are blue, sweet and nutritious.

**CREAM CUSTARD.**—Mix a pint of cream with one of milk, five beaten eggs, a tablespoonful of flour, and three of sugar. Add nutmeg to the taste, and bake the custards in cups or pie-plates in a quick oven.

**THE High Bush Cranberry** is, says the Genesee Farmer, a handsome shrub attaining a height of eight or twelve feet, and in its wild state is to be found in woods and borders of fields. It bears clusters of white flowers in June, which are succeeded by red, acid fruit, resembling the common Cranberry in flavor, for which it is also a good substitute.

The fruit ripens late, and remains upon the bush after the leaves have fallen. This plant is well worthy of cultivation, both for ornament and for use, and will adapt itself to any good garden soil.

**THE PRINCE OF WALES** will leave England on a visit to America about the tenth of July.

**BURNING FLUID** is a mixture of alcohol and camphene in the proportion of about four gallons of alcohol to one of camphene. Camphene is simply spirits of turpentine re-distilled.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA OIL SPRINGS.**—The continued yield of these springs and veins is creating much excitement in their vicinity and elsewhere, being calculated, as they are, to render that region of our country one of the richest in the Union. One gentleman at Union, Pa. (a Mr. Hall) recently commenced boring, and at the depth of 53 feet struck a vein, which is yielding him 12 barrels of oil per day. Others, from a greater depth, are securing 30 barrels per diem. It now becomes a question as to what the effect of these discoveries will be upon the whale fishery.—*Boston Post.*

**BURYING ALIVE.**—A correspondent of the London Time states, that in the Commune d'Ecully, in France, two men were buried alive in a well by a fall of loose earth, and that after twenty days one of them was taken out still alive; having survived the want of air, light and food, throughout that period, in addition to the impossibility of moving, and the presence by his side of the dead body of his unfortunate companion, for a considerable portion of the time.

**ECLIPSE.**—The great eclipse of the sun which takes place on the 18th of next July, will be total in Spain, and and it is said that at least forty astronomers, from various part of Europe, intend visiting that country on the occasion, in order to observe the phenomenon.

It is stated that when the twelve hundred clerks employed in the Bank of England leaves the building in the evening, a detachment of troops marches in to guard it in the night, although burglars could not penetrate the solid vaults in six weeks.

**FORESTS** attract rain, says the Scientific American; in the lower Provinces they attract snow also.

"The Victoria Tubular Bridge at Montreal, two miles in length, is a fixed fact. The first locomotive crossed over it on Nov. 24th, and it was opened for regular travel on Dec. 18th. The engineer is A. M. Ross, and the builder J. Hodges. Its entire cost is \$6,500,000. There is 21 piers, composed of 3,000,000 blocks of solid masonry. The total weight of the tubes, which are all iron, is 8,000 tons. The shipping pass under them. This is the last link in the Grand Trunk Railroad, 1,000 miles long and in running order, the longest continuous line in the world."

**SNAKES** are ova-viviparous, that is to say, eggs are formed and hatched within the body of the animal. This, probably, has giving rise to the popular notion that these reptiles swallow their offsprings.

There are more than 1,000 different religious beliefs prevailing among the children of men.

**GRASS.**—It is said there are 3,000 species of grass in existence.

**SPURGEON'S** new Tabernacle is to cost £30,000.

#### Agents for the Instructor.

**MR. WILLIAM BRENOCH**, has engaged to visit the principal settlements in the counties of Albert, western part of Westmorland, and the river St. John Counties.

**MR. SAMUEL C. OULTON**, the counties of Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester, and Resigcuhe.

**MR. JACOB SITLIKER**, Prince Edward's Island.

And we expect also to have an Agent in Nova Scotia.

We are taking this step to increase our circulation, with a view, at the end of the current year, of reducing the price of *The Instructor* to half a Dollar per annum.