

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

THE BATHURST SCHOOL QUESTION BEFORE THE HOUSE.

A Resolution Moved by Mr. Pitts to Refer the Matter to a Committee for Investigation.

The Attorney General delivers an able address on the subject, and objects to side-tracking the question, but suggests that the grievances be boldly brought before the House and redressed.

(Continued from 1st page.)

Under the arrangement entered into by the government, largely composing the board of education, and the representative of the Roman Catholic vote, it was agreed that the certificates of any teacher should render the holder eligible for examination, and under that operation for a long period of years many have submitted themselves for examination and having successfully passed it become entitled to receive licence qualifying them to teach. I am not aware that any person of reasonable judgment can find fault if a teacher examined and qualified to teach should happen to belong to an order of any denomination.

Following this regulation there was an application made to the government in 1875 to allow the Sisters of Charity to be examined separately and apart from other applicants, and if any of them desired to come up for examination that they should not be compelled to attend with the general applicants but having regard to the nature of their sisterhood and its obligations that they might be allowed to submit themselves to examination in a less public way. As early as 1875 in St. John an application of that kind was made, and while it was not acceded to, and specific rules of the board made that the separate examination should be allowed yet the board of education at that time realizing it was not a fundamental difficulty, that it did not strike at the roots of the system in any way, thought they might allow such an examination, and by communication from the chief superintendent notified the person holding the examination or ordinary applicants to be might adjourn the examination for a period of a month to allow the sisters to come up and stand their examination. This was done in 1879. The following year a separate examination was authorized at St. Malachi's hall, and I believe such examinations have continued to take place from year to year whenever applications came up. In 1884 the present board of education made an order granting permission to have these examinations separate. I cannot see why anybody should feel any serious objection to such an arrangement. It does not detract from the non-sectarian character of the school law, nor extended any privilege that would not be readily extended to any body in the land. If there were such an organization connected with any other church the same privilege would be extended to such as were granted by the regulation in 1884.

The honorable member who has promoted this motion asked: "How is the attorney general going to wash his hands of this business?" I do not propose to do so. I do not pretend to disclaim the responsibility for it as far as it goes. We found a state of things existing that had not appeared to create any discontent, and we simply put upon record in plain terms what had been permitted for several years preceding. Many would say that the Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Church ought not to be allowed to teach, but sisters or brothers closely identified with any other denomination ought to be allowed to do so. These schools are successfully taught, and the inspectors have found them well conducted, orderly and effective. If there is any district in this province where religious instruction is imparted by any of these teachers it is done after school hours. I gather from what has been put forth in this discussion that this house will be asked to pass a regulation that teachers belonging to the Catholic Church or Sisters of Charity should not be allowed to hold licence. What does that mean? As the law stands a very considerable number of those connected with the Sisters of Charity received their instruction in the Normal school before they became members of that order. The teachers in St. John, Chatham, and I am informed Moncton did receive instruction in the Normal school, and such is the case largely throughout the province. Now what is the proposition that these reformers are going to propose to the legislature, under their cry of equal rights to all? That these young women, educated in the Normal school and qualified by law to teach, the moment they become members of an order connected with the Catholic church, are to be disqualified to continue as teachers? If that is the proposition, I want to hear somebody calmly suggest to this legislature that after these young women have acquired the right to teach, because they have taken the veil, they are therefore to be disqualified.

Mr. Pitts: That was not the proposition made. It was that they ought to come to the Normal school.

Mr. Blair: Well, if the argument is that after they come to the Normal school and receive their licences, the moment they go into the church, what becomes of the argument advanced here; what becomes of the disputeable means that have been resorted to to inflame the people of the country? You cannot say a teacher should be allowed to take training in Normal school, receive qualification as one of the religious orders and then be allowed to teach without withdrawing from your position and saying it is no objection to a person teaching that she is a Sister of Charity. It simply narrows itself down to this that you should not allow anybody to attend examination who has not gone to the Normal school. Every graduate of the U. N. B. of St. Joseph's college, Kings' college, Mount Allison, or other college of recognized standing is entitled to make application for examination without attending the Normal school. The Normal school is an institution established by the government of the province for the purpose of training untrained teachers; fitting them for their duties. Instead of granting

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ing equal rights to all it would absolutely prescribe a particular class of our people and cause serious dissatisfaction. Individuals actually and prominently connected with different churches have been examined and received licences. I have a few names: Rev. John Home, a Presbyterian minister, never attended Normal school; received licence and taught school for years, and I am informed is now teaching; Rev. Mr. Parsons (Episcopal), and Rev. David White another Presbyterian are other names. It is because they do not happen to be connected with the Roman Catholic church—that it is all right I suppose. Suppose there was not any regulation about it; suppose those persons came up in the way they did and our Catholic friends should make an ado about it and seek to stir up an agitation and have somebody move a resolution to refer the matter to a select committee of seven, as in the present case, would it not be felt on all sides of the house that it was an intolerant spirit that dictated such a course?

But while he has drawn the attention of the house to the arrangement entered into in 1875, he thought it desirable that he should get down to the actual state of affairs as they exist to-day. He stated that on page 83 of the school law, under regulation 31, would be found the only regulation now in force relating to this subject.

Mr. Phinney—It has been changed lately.

Hon. Mr. Blair—Only in phraseology.

Mr. Phinney—No, in sense.

Hon. Mr. Blair said there had not been any intention to make a change in the sense. In 1892 the government thought it advisable to put everything in the manual that had any relation to this question and therefore embodied regulation 31 as follows:—

PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EXAMINATION.

If the applicant has obtained professional classification at the provincial Normal school, or has received a certificate of qualification from some other normal or training school after attendance thereof of not less than one school year.

Mr. Stockton—That is not the same as the old one.

Hon. Mr. Blair—The law as it exists to-day and incorporated in the school law manual of 1892.

Hon. Mr. Blair then referred to what was called the "millinery regulation," which prohibited any teacher wearing in school while engaged in teaching, symbols or insignia connected with any religious order. The framers of the law, however, became so ashamed of the regulation that they passed an order in 1872 to the effect that nothing in such regulation should prevent the wearing of the cross as ordinarily worn by certain Christian denominations. Was it proposed by gentlemen opposite to revive that millinery regulation? The order of 1872 was published and when the elections of 1874 took place they resulted in the return of the most Protestant house that ever sat in this province, with a government that did not contain one Roman Catholic member. These gentlemen ratified, confirmed and carried out the regulation of 1872 abolishing the millinery regulation. Complaints were constantly being received of misconduct of various kinds on the part of teachers, and were examined into; but no complaints of religious instruction had ever been received. If the parents of the children during all these years had had no reason to complain in this regard surely it must be that the law had been well and faithfully carried out. He could not see that the fact that a school was taught by a Presbyterian minister or Catholic sister established that the school was sectarian. What constituted a sectarian school? It must be the fact that denominational teaching was given in the school. Neither was a school sectarian because it was taught in a building which had been in whole or in part occupied by any religious denomination. Here in Fredericton when the law came into operation the trustees had secured the Baptist seminary. Would anybody be so childish as to claim that that made the school sectarian?

Never since I have been a member of the board of education has there been a solitary complaint that anything like sectarian or denominational teaching had been carried on in any of the schools. The whole basis of the present complaint was that the sisters were allowed to teach in St. John, Fredericton and Bathurst, and to teach in buildings rented by the trustees that were formerly convent schools. Could any cry be more contemptible than that with which to set this country in a flame. He would have thought that any member of this house would have been ashamed to voice such a charge.

Mr. Blair, having dealt with every aspect of the question, showing clearly that the government had carried out the school law in every particular as far as lay in their power thought it better to have the whole matter openly discussed before the whole house. He said:

We are not aware that any action we have taken does not commend itself to public favor or of having in any way infringed upon the non-sectarian character of the school. But if these gentlemen have the courage of their convictions and have any views they desire to promulgate let them come before the house and submit their views and let the country hear their arguments! It is not a ques-

tion of this government, or that this board or another shall administer educational affairs. The question is, what is in the best interests of the province and what do the majority of the people require? I am ready to submit myself to the opinion of the country. The board of education has no reason to fear the fullest investigation. If by the verdict of the people's representatives here or by that of the people when we again have to refer to them, it should be determined that we have been conferring privileges upon one class and withholding them from another; if we have in any way violated that section of the school law which provides that the schools shall be non-sectarian we must pay the penalty. As far as I am capable of forming an opinion on this question I think the men who have set this agitation afloat will fail to produce one tithe of evidence on which to found their charge. We have done our duty fairly to the Protestant people of the country and to the Catholic people as well, and if the time should come when this question shall be submitted to the people of this country in its nakedness, truthfully, fairly and frankly and as a result of that this government should fall, I would not ask, as a representative of the people and as a member of this government, to go down in a juster fight or engage in what I conceive to be a worthier struggle than endeavoring to do what is just fair and right by all classes of our people, conferring special favors upon none, but assuring equal rights to all.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 29.—After the introduction of a few bills the order of the day being reached Hon. Mr. White seconded by Mr. Robinson moved the following amendment:

To strike out all after the word "resolved" and insert the following: "That the petition number 29 of Henry Chestnut, William Lemont, J. A. Vanwart, and 113 other ratepayers of the county of York, praying that such orders and regulations contrary thereto may be rescinded and that the administration of the law may place all on a footing of equality, together with returns laid before this house in answer to a resolution of Mr. Siverwright, No. 26 moved on Saturday, 25th inst. calling for all copies of orders in council, regulations of the board of education, instructions of the chief superintendent with reference to the Bathurst schools—be carried to a committee of the whole house, and that it be an instruction to the committee to consider the allegations and papers of the said petition, and all papers, evidence and matters included in and referred to, in the said return, and that such committee have power to report their opinions and recommendations in the premises."

Mr. Stockton opened the discussion with a lengthy speech in which he stated he found no fault whatever with the regulations of the school law. The only complaint he had was that the amount of evidence before the house was not sufficient, and that he himself was not fully informed upon the facts and circumstances. He claimed the amendment of the Solicitor General was not sufficient to remove the difficulty. He asked why the public school building at Bathurst was not occupied.

Mr. Siverwright said that it was fully occupied at the present time, with the exception of one room, which was too small. Hon. Mr. Tweedie replied to Mr. Stockton, and Mr. Alward followed and moved the following seconded by Mr. Shaw:—

Moved as an amendment to the amendment to add at the end thereof the following words, viz: "And that the committee be authorized and empowered to examine witnesses under oath to call for papers and documents to report the evidence to this house."

The debate was continued after recess by Messrs. Powell, Howe, Flewelling, Lablanc, Emmerson, Mitchell, Killam, Gogaine, Pitts, Siverwright, O'Brien (Charlotte), Shaw, Hill and Mott.

Mr. Alward's amendment was then put and lost on the following division:— Yeas—Messrs. Stockton, Powell, Shaw, Smith (St. John), Alward, Howe, Pinder Allen, Perley, 9.

Nays—Messrs. Blair, Mitchell, Emmerson, White, Tweedie, Lablanc, Connell, Gogaine, Lewis, Pitts, Russell, Thériault, Blanchard, Killam, Siverwright, Mott, Smith, (Westmorland), Flewelling, Scott, O'Brien (Northumberland), Dibblee, Robinson, Dunn, McLeod, Wells, Ferris, O'Brien (Charlotte), Hill, 28.

Hon. Mr. White's amendment was then carried on a reverse vote, except that Mr. Powell voted for the amendment and Mr. Pitts against it.

Hon. Mr. Blair moved that the house do, on Thursday, resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the resolution—Carried.

The house adjourned at 2:15 Thursday morning. The investigation was commenced Thursday afternoon. Our next issue will contain a full account.

Trustful and Commendations

Are unpoplar. But there is one form of trust against which no one has anything to say. That is the trust which the public reposes in Hood's Sarsaparilla, and best of it is the trust is fully justified by the merit of the medicine. For, remember, Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures.

TEACHER'S COLUMN.

Devoted to the Interests of the Provincial Teachers.

In Which We Publish the Entrance, Monthly and Final Examination Papers Used in the Normal School.

This Column is Open for Communications, and Will Contain Articles of Special Interest to Every Teacher—Teachers wishing for information on any school question can obtain the same by enquiring through this column.

Our next issue will contain some very interesting articles relating to school matters with which every teacher should be acquainted, also communications from some of our leading teachers. We devote the column this week to a most interesting letter from the pen of the Chief Supt. of Education.

New Regulations.

A Letter from Chief Superintendent Ingham setting forth the Advantages of the New Regulations Regarding Admission to the Normal School.

FREDERICTON, March 30.—Teachers should find much to interest them in perusing the new regulations regarding the admission to the Normal school and the examination and licensing of teachers. The changes made will, we think, commend themselves to the judgment of teachers generally. The country teachers especially, and those young men and women throughout the country who desire to prepare themselves for teaching, will find in the new arrangements a great deal to encourage and stimulate them. Applicants for admission to the Normal school will, hereafter, enter for either a first, second or third class examination as they may elect, in the subjects required for entrance. These subjects are enumerated in Regulation 33. They include reading, writing, spelling, English grammar and composition, geography, history, arithmetic (including the keeping of accounts), and elementary natural history. The paper "will be graded as to extent and difficulty according to the class of license applied for."

Male candidates for first and second class will also be required to pass an examination on the first book of geometry (Humboldt Smith's) and on algebra, including the elementary rules and simple equations of one unknown quantity. This will afford earnest and skillful teachers an opportunity of winning due credit for good work. It is to be presumed that the papers will be set by the faculty of the Normal school, that no amount of mere cramming will enable a student to pass well. Teachers will, therefore, find scope for a worthy ambition in aiming to prepare their pupils to pass in as high class and in as high a rank in each class, as circumstances will permit. Students, too, who may not have the advantage of a school will see that all the subjects required for the entrance examination may be prepared with very little assistance, by private study.

These entrance examinations not only lead to admission to the Normal school, but really form a part of the examination for license. Candidates will not, hereafter be required to pass, at the close of their course at the Normal school, in the subjects upon which they were examined for entrance, but only upon Professional subjects and the additional Academic subjects included in the Normal school course and laid down in the Syllabus for the closing examinations. Of course should any student fail to pass in as high a class in the closing examinations as in the entrance or should he be permitted to pass in a higher class than the one in which he entered, he will only be entitled to a license of the lower class passed in until he has passed in the higher class at both examinations. He may come up at any of the subsequent entrance or closing examination to write for the higher class.

The new plan will have the effect of making the students course at the Normal school much more pleasant and profitable, and will rob the closing examinations of some of their terrors. The student will now be able to devote his time to a much fewer number of subjects and will therefore, be able to make far greater progress in each, and instead of being compelled to write papers on sixteen or eighteen different subjects, in the course of three or four days, at the close of a hard term's work, he will only have to write on the subjects which he has been studying at the Normal school.

Intending candidates for the entrance examinations will take notice that their applications must be sent to the Inspector in whose district they wish to write, not later than the 24th of May. The application must state the class of license for which the candidate wishes to enter, and must be accompanied by a fee of \$1. The candidate will be furnished the necessary writing paper without charge.

The entrance examinations will be held on the first Tuesday of July, beginning at 9 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following places have been designated as stations for the entrance examinations: Fredericton, St. John, Moncton, St. Stephen, Chatham, Bathurst, Campbellton, Woodstock, Amherst. Candidates may select whichever of these is the most convenient of access or which may be reached with least expense. They will be notified of the result of their examination in due time. The provincial Normal school will open on the first teaching day in September, and every successful candidate should be present in the hall of the Normal school at 9 o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Candidates for third class license will only be required to attend the Normal school during the first term which ends on the last teaching day in December.

At the end of that term they will be admitted to the closing examination for third class license, upon passing which they will receive a license of that class good for three years.

Upon passing the entrance examination for second and first class, these third class teachers will be admitted to the Normal school, at any session subsequent to the one they first attended, at the beginning of the second term on the first teaching day in January. They cannot be admitted for advance of class, to the closing examinations, until they have completed the attendance of a full session at the Normal school which ends on the Friday next preceding the second Tuesday in June.

Candidates for first and second class license will be required to attend the Normal school during the whole session as at present. Licenses of these classes will not be subject to any limitation as to time. The closing examinations for these two classes will be held annually at Fredericton, St. John and Chatham, beginning at 9 o'clock a. m. on the second Tuesday in June. Those who have just completed their Normal School course

will stand the examination before leaving Fredericton.

Teachers now holding licenses of the third or second class will be required to pass the entrance examination for that class before entering the Normal School to prepare for advance of class. They may enter the school at the beginning of either term of the annual session.

A system of Grammar School examination and University matriculation examination has also been arranged. The details will be found in regulation 45. These examinations will be held at the Normal School entrance examination. Each candidate is required to notify not later than the 24th of May, the Inspector in whose district the station at which he wishes to write is located, of his intention to attend the examination, stating which of the examinations he wishes to take and which of the optional subjects he has selected. A fee of \$2 must accompany the application.

Those who pass either of these examinations will be entitled to admission to the Normal School without being required to pass the usual entrance examination. Grammar and High School teachers should encourage as many of their pupils as possible to win a certificate at one of these examinations.

High school students should be able to pass the junior leaving examination at the end of the second year of their high school course, or the junior matriculation examination at the end of their third year.

The senior matriculation examination is intended to come at the end of the fourth year at high school. A certificate of having passed this examination entitles the holder to admission to the second year at the University. Advanced students from schools other than high schools, and private students, will be welcomed to the work and the honours of these examinations.

J. R. Inch, L. L. D.
Chief Superintendent of Education.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

Happenings of the Week Throughout the Province.

April fool's day.

African Choir in the City Hall to-night.

The city schools will re-open on Wednesday. See F. B. Edgcombe's advertisement in this issue.

The band of the C. R. I. will play to church to-morrow morning.

Yesterday being Good Friday it was observed as a public holiday.

The residence of Judge Steadman has been leased by Mr. R. F. Randolph.

The usual Easter services will be held in the different churches to-morrow.

The legislature adjourned Thursday afternoon until Monday afternoon.

Yesterday being Good Friday the usual services were held in the Cathedral.

A full account of the Bathurst school investigation will appear in our next issue.

The Senate of the University met in semi-annual session in the legislative buildings this week.

Mr. Phinney, M. P., was granted leave of absence from the house this week on account of the death of his sister Mrs. Parker.

An informal meeting of the city council was held Thursday evening to arrange the assessment for the current year. The council will meet to-night to ratify the work.

The marriage of Mr. W. E. Smith, secretary of the N. B. Telephone Co., and Miss Jennie Winslow, is announced to take place in the cathedral next Wednesday at 1:30 p. m.

Mr. Blackaller, C. P. R. auditor at Woodstock, has accepted a position in the head office, Montreal, and will enter upon his work there next week.

Hedley Bolter, who has been held on a charge of complicity with the prisoners O'Ree and Gordon for robbing Davis & Staples' drug store, was dismissed on his own recognizance.

Maple honey and sugar is coming in. The manufacturers complain that the season is very backward and too cold. The flow of sap so far, they say, has been very slow.

Mr. W. E. Seery has just received an elegant line of trousers, suitings, and overcoats suitable for Spring and Summer wear. Call and see them. Prices away down—Adv.



Mr. Warren D. Wentz of Geneva, N. Y.,

Tells of His Fearful Sufferings After Gastric Fever and His Cure by Hood's Sarsaparilla

All who know Mr. W. D. Wentz give him the best of recommendations for honesty and integrity. For many years he has worked for Mr. D. P. Wilson, the harness maker and member of the Geneva Board of Health. He says:

"I was taken sick last October with gastric fever and my chance for recovery was considered almost hopeless. After 7 weeks the fever slowly left me, but I could not eat the simplest food without terrible distress. It seemed that I had recovered from the fever only to die of starvation. I took peppin compounds, bismuth, charcoal, cod liver oil and malt until my physician confessed that his skill was about exhausted and he did not know what else to try. Everything I took seemed like pouring molten lead into my stomach. I happened to think that part of a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla that had been in the house for two or three years, that I found had benefited me previously for dyspepsia. I began taking it and soon began to feel better. I have now taken a little over two bottles and can truthfully say I feel well again and can eat anything without distressing me, even to

Die of Starvation

I took peppin compounds, bismuth, charcoal, cod liver oil and malt until my physician confessed that his skill was about exhausted and he did not know what else to try. Everything I took seemed like pouring molten lead into my stomach. I happened to think that part of a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla that had been in the house for two or three years, that I found had benefited me previously for dyspepsia. I began taking it and soon began to feel better. I have now taken a little over two bottles and can truthfully say I feel well again and can eat anything without distressing me, even to

Pie and Cheese

which I have been unable to touch for years. The English language does not contain words enough to permit me to express the praise I would like to give to Hood's Sarsaparilla."

W. D. WENTZ, 121 Castle St., Geneva, N. Y.

A Good Voucher

"I have known Mr. Warren D. Wentz for many years and can vouch for him as a man of veracity and one well known about here. I have sold him several bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla during the past few months. M. H. PARSONS, DRUGGIST, Geneva, N. Y."

Hood's Sarsaparilla during the past few months. M. H. PARSONS, DRUGGIST, Geneva, N. Y.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills

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A Full Line of Silver

Plated Goods at the LOWEST PRICES.

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28—

Very Sad

The many friends of Mr. Cateb Evans of Royal Road, York Co., will learn with deep regret of the death of his eldest son, John, on Monday last. This makes the fourth death in Mr. Evans' family in four years. Last year a son 18 years of age was called away, and the year before the wife and mother of the family, and a daughter in her 22nd year in the year previous.

Easter Holidays.

The colleges and schools throughout the province are all closed for the Easter holidays except the Normal school.

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Will give the public leave to offer bills (bank bills) to their firm for

value received on more favorable terms than bills offered on the floors of the House, many of them being thrown out. We never throw out bills as the Legislature does. Bills will cover all kinds of Furniture, Carpets, Bedding, Woodenware, Crockery and China, Tinware, Silverware, Fancy Goods, Furniture Coverings, Lamps and all kinds of Marriage Goods.

Chamber Suites in Oak.

NEW FURNITURE PARLORS!

We desire to announce that we will have arriving within the next ten days a large and varied assortment of Household Furniture in Oak Walnut and Mahogany, comprising:

Bedroom Sets, Parlor Suites, Dining Tables, Chairs, Lounges, Etc.

Easy Chairs in Leather, Brocade and Fancy Coverings, and full lines of Kitchen and Dining-room Furniture.

FOLDING BEDS and CRIBS A SPECIALTY.

Also a complete stock of Assorted Crockery in the latest and most fashionable designs. Woven Wire Spring Beds in all Sizes.

E. H. Allen & Co., Queen St., just below Oak Hall.

Hard and Soft Coal always on hand.