Senate Reading Room

POSTAGE PREPAID.

THE EXAMINER.

VOL. XXVII CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, MONDAY, MAY 15, 1876. NO. 20.

The Examiner

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William L. Cotton,

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Space.	1 w	2 w	3 w	4 w	5 w	6 w	7 w	2 m	3 m	4 m	5 m	6 m	9 m	12 m
1 Inch.	0.50	0.70	0.90	1.10	1.30	1.50	1.70	1.90	2.61	3.33	4.05	4.40	5.67	6.42
2 do.	1.00	1.40	1.80	2.20	2.60	3.00	3.40	3.80	5.22	6.66	8.10	8.80	11.34	12.84
3 do.	1.50	2.10	2.70	3.30	3.90	4.50	5.10	5.70	7.83	9.99	12.15	13.20	17.01	19.26
4 do.	2.00	2.80	3.60	4.40	5.20	6.00	6.80	7.60	10.44	13.32	16.20	17.60	22.68	25.68
5 do.	2.50	3.50	4.50	5.50	6.50	7.50	8.50	9.50	13.05	16.65	20.25	22.00	28.35	32.10
6 do.	3.00	4.20	5.40	6.60	7.80	9.00	10.20	11.40	15.66	19.98	24.30	26.40	34.02	38.52
7 do.	3.50	4.90	6.30	7.70	9.10	10.50	11.90	13.30	18.27	23.31	28.35	30.80	39.69	44.94
8 do.	4.00	5.60	7.20	8.80	10.40	12.00	13.60	15.20	20.88	26.64	32.40	35.20	45.36	51.36
9 do.	4.50	6.30	8.10	9.90	11.70	13.50	15.30	17.10	23.49	29.97	36.45	39.60	51.03	57.78
10 do.	5.00	7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	26.10	33.30	40.50	44.00	56.70	64.20
11 do.	5.50	7.70	9.90	12.10	14.30	16.50	18.70	20.90	28.71	36.63	44.55	48.40	62.37	70.62
12 do.	6.00	8.40	10.80	13.20	15.60	18.00	20.40	22.80	31.32	39.96	48.60	52.80	68.04	77.04

All advertisements exceeding 12 inches will be subject to a discount of 10 per cent. additional, if continued for one year.

Auctioneers will be allowed 10 per cent. discount when they advertise to the amount of $30 per year; 15 per cent when to the amount of $45; and 20 per cent when to the amount of $60 per annum, and not otherwise.

The sum of 12 cents per line will be charged for each insertion of all "Special Notices;" and 25 cents for notices in editorial or news columns.

The sum of 50 cents will be charged for the insertion of all Marriage and Birth notices.

ALMANAC FOR MAY, 1876.

MOON'S CHANGES.

Full Moon, 8th day, 5h. 46m., a. m., W.
Last Quarter, 16th day, 9h. 14m. a. m., S. W.
New Moon, 23d day, 11h. 13m., a. m., S.
First Quarter, 30th day. 1h. 36m., a. m., W. below horizon.

D. M.	DAY WEEK	SUN rise	SUN sets	MOON rises	HIGH water	DAY'S len'th
		H M	H M	M	M	H M
1	Monday	4 51	7 3	11 52	4 8	14 12
2	Tuesday	49	4 A	17 5	30	15
3	Wedn'sd'y	48	6	2 19	6 49	18
4	Thursday	47	7	3 31	7 49	20
5	Friday	45	8	4 30	8 37	23
6	Saturday	44	9	5 43	9 17	25
7	Sunday	43	10	6 52	9 51	27
8	Monday	41	12	8 5	10 28	31
9	Tuesday	39	13	9 11	11 8	34
10	Wedn'sd'y	38	14	10 17	11 38	36
11	Thursday	36	15	11 11	A 21	39
12	Friday	35	17	11 53	1 1	42
13	Saturday	34	18	M	1 42	44
14	Sunday	33	20	0 27	2 25	47
15	Monday	32	20	0 46	3 12	58
16	Tuesday	31	21	1 14	4 8	50
17	Wedn'sd'y	30	22	1 27	5 9	52
18	Thursday	29	24	1 48	6 15	55
19	Friday	28	25	2 4	7 21	57
20	Saturday	27	26	2 24	8 20	59
21	Sunday	26	27	2 40	9 12	15 1
22	Monday	25	28	3 1	10 0	3
23	Tuesday	24	29	3 36	10 48	5
24	Wedn'sd'y	23	30	4 13	11 28	7
25	Thursday	22	31	5 28	M	9
26	Friday	21	32	6 48	0 17	11
27	Saturday	21	34	8 12	1 2	13
28	Sunday	20	34	9 37	1 46	14
29	Monday	19	35	10 56	2 37	16
30	Tuesday	18	36	A 12	3 44	18
31	Wedn'sd'y	4 18	7 37	1 30	4 41	15 19

PRICES CURRENT.

Ch'town, May 9, 1876.

BREADSTUFFS.	
Buckwheat Flour, per lb	0.03 to 0.3½
Flour, per bbl	5.50 to 7.00
Flour, per 100 lbs	3.00 to 3.25
Oatmeal, per 100 lbs	2.70 to 3.00
FISH.	
Codfish per qtl	3.50 to 5.00
Herring per bbl	4.87 to 6.49
Mackerel per doz.	0.48 to 0.72
BOARDS.	
Hemlock, 100 feet.	0.81 to 0.94
Pine do	1.62 to 2.40
Spruce do	0.97 to 1.30
Shingles, per M.	2.11 to 2.48
POULTRY.	
Chickens, per pair	$0.50 to 0.70
Ducks, (each)	0.24 to 0.35
Fowls, (each)	0.25 to 0.40
Partridges, (each)	0.00 to 0.00
Turkeys, (each)	0.80 to 1.75
Geese (each)	0.50 to 0.75
MEAT.	
Beef, (small pieces) per lb	$0.08 to 0.16
Beef, per lb (by the quarter)	0.06 to 0.10
Ham, per lb	0.10 to 0.12
Lamb, per quarter	0.00 to 0.00
Lamb, per lb	0.06 to 0.09
Mutton, per lb	0.07 to 0.12
Pork,(small pieces) per lb	0.08 to 0.12
Pork, per lb (by the carcass)	0.5½ to 0.09
Veal, per lb	0.04 to 0.08
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Apples per bushel	0.00 to 0.00
Barley per bushel	0.00 to 0.75
Butter (fresh) per lb	0.18 to 0.25
Butter per lb by the tub	0.18 to 0.20
Calfskins, per lb	0.06 to 0.10
Cheese (new milk) per lb	0.14 to 0.16
Cheese, per lb	0.05 to 0.08
Clover seed, per lb	0.18 to 0.22
Eggs, per doz.	0.12 to 0.16
Green Peas,	0.00 to 0.00
Hay, per ton	8.50 to 10 50
Hides, per lb.	0.04 to 0.4½
Honey, per lb.	0.25 to 0.32
Homespun, (men's wear) per yd.	0.65 to 1.06
Homespun, (women's do) per yd	0.35 to 0.48
Homespun Flannel, per yard	0.31 to 0.46
Lard, per lb	0.12 to 0.16
Oats, per bushe.	0.34 to 0.40
Potatoes, per bushel	0.32 to 0.40
Pearl Barley, per lb	0.03 to 0.04
Sheepskins	0.60 to 1.00
Straw, per ton	2.50 to 3.00
Timothy Seed, per bush,	3.50 to 4.00
Tallow per lb	0.07 to 0.10
Turnips, per bush.	0.20 to 0.24
Wool, per lb	0.17 to 0.25

BUSINESS CARDS.

COOMBS & WORTH,
JOB PRINTERS & BOOKBINDERS
51 WATER STREET,
Charlottetown, - - - P. E. Island.
Jan.17'76 1y

E. C. NELSON,
IMPORTER & REPAIRER
OF
SEWING MACHINES.
ADDRESS:—P. O. Box 303, Charlottetown.
Oct. 25, 1875.—1y

MacKENZIE & STUMBLES,
Auctioneers, Commission Merchants,
AND
GENERAL AGENTS,
77 North Side Queen Square,
Charlottetown, - - P. E. Island.
October 18, 1875.—1y

WILLIAM DODD,
Commission Merchant and
AUCTIONEER
QUEEN SQUARE,
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND

CARVELL BROS.,
AUCTIONEERS,
Commission Merchants,
AND
GENERAL AGENTS.
Lower Queen St. Charlottetown, P. E. I.

HASZARD BROS.,
Commission Merchants & Auctioneers,
FORWARDING, MANUFACTURERS,
AND
General Agents,
61 WATER STREET,
Opposite Merchants Bank,
Charlottetown, - - - - P. E. I.
J. E. HASZARD, | HORACE HASZARD.
REFERENCES:
Messrs. Greenshields, Son & Co., Montreal,
Messrs. W. & R. Brodie, Quebec,
Messrs. J. S. Farlow & Co., Boston,
Henry Lawson, Esq., Halifax, N. S.
Hon. Daniel Davies, Charlottetown, P. E. I.
May 3, 1875.

REVERE HOUSE,
ADJOINING THE POST OFFICE,
ALBERTON, - - - - P. E. I.
The subscriber has fitted up the above House in good style, and wishes to inform his friends, and the public generally that he is prepared to accommodate
Transient and Permanent Boarders.
Charges moderate. Good Stabling on the premises.
RICHARD GLADNEY,
Proprietor.
Alberton, Sept. 13, 1875.

INTERNATIONAL!
CENTRAL STREET,
Summerside, P. E. Island,
JOHN McKAY, PROPRIETOR.
THIS HOUSE, second to none on the Island for beauty of situation, comfort and convenience afforded, commends itself to the patronage of all who may visit the Island for business or pleasure.
Choice Sample Rooms to let.
Conveyances from Cars and Boats.
Ladies and Gentlemen will find it to their advantage to patronize this Hotel.
Feb. 21, 1876.—tf

INSURANCE.

ST. LAWRENCE
Marine Insurance Co.
OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
A. KENNEDY, ESQ., *President.*
JOHN F. ROBERTSON,
ARTEMAS LORD,
THOMAS MORRIS,
GEORGE D. LONGWORTH.
P. W. HYNDMAN,
W. D. STEWART.
Risks taken daily at their office, Exchange Building.
FRED. W. HYNDMAN,
Ch'town, April 24, 1876.—1y *Secretary*

MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY
OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
ROBERT LONGWORTH, Esq., President,
HON. JAS. DUNCAN,
HON. L. C. OWEN,
HON. A. A. McDONALD,
HON. J. C. POPE,
THOMAS HANDRAHAN, ESQ.,
GEORGE R. BEER, Esq.
Risks taken daily at their office, corner Great George and Lower Water Streets.
F. W. HALES, Secretay.
Ch'town, March 22, 1875—1y

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON
AND GLOBE
INSURANCE COMPANY
FIRE AND LIFE.
Invested Funds, 1st Jan'y., 1874, $21,628,356
Deposited with Receiver General of Canada, 162,800
Other Investments in Dominion of Canada, 367,091
FAIR RATES.
Prompt & Liberal Settlements.
Insurance against Fire effected upon Private Residences, Household Furniture and Farm Properties, for
One, Three or more years,
At Reduced Rates.
Office—Great George Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.
R. R. FITZGERALD, Agent
Ch'town, July 27, 1874.—6m

The Education Law.

Report of Investigation Committee.

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY,
April 29th, 1876.

Your Committee appointed to investigate and report upon the manner in which the Education Law has been, and is now being carried out in the Public Educational Establishments of this Island, beg to report:—

That they summoned before them, and have examined the following members of the Board of Education: the Honorable Judge Hensley, Chairman; the Reverend Alexander McLean, the Reverend Isaac Murray, the Reverend Donald McNeill, Secretary of the Board; Edward Roche, Esq., Teacher of the Normal School; and John McSwain, Esquire, Visitor of Schools for King's County; and they have also summoned before them, and examined the following persons: Norman A. Stewart, Esquire, Visitor of Schools for Prince County; William McPhail, Esquire, Visitor of Schools for Queen's County; Professor Anderson, Principal of the Prince of Wales College; and Donald Montgomery, Esquire, Head Master of the Normal School.

The evidence given by these gentlemen we have transcribed and appended hereto.

It will be seen that this evidence is not confined solely to the application on the existing law, but that it embodies many suggestions for the improvement, both of the law itself and of the machinery for carrying it into effect. These suggestions for the improvement of the Act were, to a great extent, illustrative of existing defects, and could not, though beyond the scope of the inquiry of your Committee, be well eliminated from the Report.

The Board of Education, as at present constituted, does not seem able, either to grapple with and remedy the evils or difficulties of the Educational system of the Colony, or effectively to carry out the existing Law. Individual responsibility is merged in that of the general Board. The Secretary does not seem to possess any special powers, and his duties practically appear to be simply mechanical. Other members of the Board seem to feel that their powers are so limited, and their actions so hampered by the law, that any attempts at comprehensive reforms would be useless. The result is that a total lack of energy and a want of union and earnestness has partially paralyzed the Board itself, and seems gradually spreading through the entire Educational System. They, at the same time, desire to record their conviction that the Chairman of the Board, as well as several other members have, in the face of many difficulties, conscientiously endeavored faithfully to discharge their duties. The evils lying rather in the constitution of the Board than in its composition.

The Education law was consolidated in 1868,—all previous laws on the subject being at that time repealed.

The law, in many respects, as consolidated, is vague and uncertain. Differences of opinion exist as to the powers conferred by it on the Board, some members even expressing doubts whether they had any power to prescribe any system of Education at all for the schools. The natural results, which might have been expected from this state of things, followed. From the evidence of the Secretary and other members of the Board of Education, it appears that no regulations for the government of the Public Schools, or prescribing any system of Education in them, have been adopted since the Act of 1868 came into operation.

The regulations adopted and published by the Board in 1867, before the present Act became law, have been tacitly accepted as still in force, but no serious attempt has been made to ensure their being faithfully carried out.

It further appears from the evidence that no complete list of books has yet been prescribed by the board for use in our Public Schools. Partial lists have from time to time been adopted. The use of some of the books prescribed was intended to be compulsory, others permissive. These lists have not yet been completed, and only partial uniformity has been attained in this particular.

The want of direct communication between the Board and the teachers in the Public Schools, struck your Committee as most extraordinary. The lists of books, adopted from time to time by the Board, do not appear to have been directly communicated to the teachers, or even to the School Visitors of the different Counties. The only means adopted by the Board to bring their order into effect, was the publication in the newspapers of a circular, signed by the Secretary, intimating generally that the Board of Education approved of certain books.

No recommendations relating to the improvement of the District Schools, or of the system under which they are conducted, or of the law itself, by which they are formed, ever appear to have been made by the Board of Education to the Government, although each individual member of the Board, when examined by us, seemed strongly of the opinion that many improvements, in this relation, were absolutely necessary.

With respect to the City Schools, however, the Board has not been inactive, and several Reports have been made by it to the Government, with reference to the improvements of these schools.

In March, 1870, a Committee of the Board, composed of Charles Palmer, Edward Roche, and George Beer, Esquires, and the Rev. Isaac Murray, made a special report upon the condition of each of the City Schools, and recommended, amongst other things, the closing up of the then existing schools, and the erection, at proper places in the City, of four suitable buildings, with two separate apartments in each, suitably furnished, so that the graded system might be carried out. A full copy of this Report we annex, marked (A). The Secretary of the Board was unable to produce any official reply on the part of the Government to these recommendations. He intimated that no reply had been given; and, as a matter of fact, no attempt has ever been made to carry any of these suggestions into effect.

In January, 1874, the Board requested the Government to sanction a scheme for the amalgamation of three of the City Schools into one, to be opened in the basement story of the Athæneum, which contained three compartments. In April following, the Government replied, declining to take any action in the matter. A copy of the letter from the Clerk of the Council, to the Secretary of the Board, is appended.

In June, 1875, the Board appointed a sub-Committee, consisting of the Hon. Justice Hensley, and the Rev. Donald McNeill, to visit and report upon the City Schools. The report of these gentlemen to the Board has been produced to us, and a copy is hereto annexed, marked (B).

The Board seem to have thought themselves unable to carry the recommendations of their sub Committee, and to have brought the matter to the notice of the Government, but without any result.

The Reports of the Visitors of Schools for the year 1875, were laid before the Board of Education, at their monthly meeting, in December last. Strange as it may appear, these Reports do not seem even to have been read by, or before the Board. The only action taken with reference to them, was the appointment of Messrs. Kelly and McNeill, as a sub-Committee, to prepare the same for publication. This sub-Committee seems simply to have handed the Reports to the Assistant Clerk of the Executive Council, and to have done nothing more. No report was made by them to the Board, and no action was taken by the Board with reference to any of the startling facts contained in those Reports, as to the manner in which Education is being carried out, or neglected throughout the Island. The whole matter appears to have been quietly passed by, and the explanation offered is, that it is not customary for the Board to consider these Reports of their School Visitors until after they have been printed.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

From the evidence adduced on this division of the subject, it is clear that there is lamentable falling off in the number of schools in operation, and the acquirements of the teachers. The increase in the number of vacant schools in Queen's County, within the last year, is thirty-seven—a rate which, if it continues, will, in a very short time, bring about the closing of all the schools in the County.

There are two principal causes alleged for the deficiency. 1st. The want of encouragement to teachers to enter and remain in the profession. 2nd. The indifference of many of the people to the advantages of Education, resulting in a difficulty, often an impossibility in keeping up the necessary average attendance, without which a teacher is not in a position to draw his salary. In this relation, the absolute necessity of a law compelling the attendance of children of a certain age, for at least some periods of the year, was insisted upon by a majority of the witnesses. The defects of the law regarding trustees and their powers, are here also important factors, and many of the witnesses attributed the increasing indifference of the people, in a large measure to these defects.

The inferiority in the acquirements of teachers may be accounted for, 1st, from the fact that the amount of remuneration is entirely insufficient, and bears no relation to length of service or ability to teach; 2nd, the board have introduced no system for the education or training of Teachers, nor have they prescribed a curriculum, through which candidates applying for licenses should pass. The bare fact of passing an examination is not considered to be a sufficient guarantee of the possession of qualifications necessary for imparting instruction.

ACADIAN SCHOOLS.

In the Acadian Schools, apart from the fact that nearly all the books used are sectarian, it appears that the teachers are not required to impart instruction in the English language.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

From the evidence given before your Committee, Grammar Schools have not accomplished the object sought in establishing them, and are only, in the majority of instances, doing elementary work at an increased cost to the Province. With the exception of one or two cases the education imparted in those schools is unequal and inefficient. From the information before your Committee they aver that better results cannot be expected, whilst such a variety of subjects are attempted to be taught by one instructor in a school of one compartment only. It further appears to your Committee that the Board of Education have contented themselves with the establishment of said Schools where petitioned for without further concerning themselves that the work these schools should do was performed.

THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

Your Committee conclude from the evidence obtained respecting this school, that it is doing good work as a secondary and primary school. The purposes for which it was established are partially defeated, as now managed, because candidates do not as a rule submit themselves to sufficient training in order to acquire the art of teaching. The reason for this is found in the fact that the present law neither requires them to undergo, nor rewards them for obtaining such training. The witnesses who appeared before your Committee on this subject, recommended that the original intention in instituting a Normal School be strictly adhered to, and the building enlarged so as to afford the necessary accommodation. The present school appears to be overcrowded.

PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE.

This institution appears, from Professor Anderson's evidence, to be well attended, and the beneficial results arising from the education there imparted, are becoming more manifest, and the College better appreciated. Your Committee feel assured that, if the recommendation of Professor Anderson for the appointment of a third teacher were adopted, the benefits of the College would be greatly increased. In this relation it is suggested that provision should be made so that those boys who receive an education in the college as scholarship candidates, might be compelled after receiving their education, to teach a number of years in our Grammar or District Schools.

There appeared to be a general consensus of opinion, on the part of those examined by your Committee, as to the absolute necessity for the appointment of a Commissioner or Superintendent of Education, in whom should be vested full and efficient powers as to the carrying out of the law. Some difference of opinion existed among the witnesses, as to the necessity of an Advisory Board to act in conjunction with the Superintendent, but a singular unanimity prevailed as to the advisability of concentrating the powers now vested in the Board, in one suitable person.

As a general rule, the Education imparted in our schools is secular; but, in some few schools throughout Queen's County, sectarian books have for many years back been used with the knowledge of at least some members of the Board of Education. During the past twelve months, sectarian books and teaching have largely increased in the Public Schools of Queen's County. They do not appear to be confined to the Roman Catholic Schools. The Visitor of Schools for Queen's County, in the report laid before the Board of Education, in December last, states the facts in this connection fully and distinctly.

This Report was forwarded by the Board to the Government, as previously stated by us, but no action appears to have been taken in regard to it.

The teachers in the Christian Brothers, School were licensed in October last, and no change appears to have been made either in the manner or matter of education imparted there. A copy of the regulations issued in 1867, seems to have been sent to this school, but with this exception, no direct intimation was made to them respecting the system of education the Board required to be adopted or the books to be used.

In addition to the evidence given by the visitor of Schools for Queen's County to your Committee orally, and which is appended hereto, marked (c), we annex a written statement from him in which his suggestions are amplified.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) LOUIS H. DAVIES, Chairman.
WILLIAM D. STEWART.
JOHN T. JENKINS,
JAMES R. McLEAN.
LAUGHLIN McDONALD.

REPORT

Of the evidence taken before the Special Committee "appointed to investigate and report upon the manner in which the Education law has been, and is now being, carried out in all the Public Educational Establishments in Prince Edward Island."

Committee.—Messrs. Louis H. Davies, Stewart, Jenkins, L. McDonald and McLean.

TUESDAY MORNING, April 25, 1876.

DONALD McNEILL, *examined.*

I have been Secretary of the Board of Education three years. Rules have been prescribed in my time and before. About a year ago a list of school books was adopted. That was the first list prescribed since I was Secretary. In January 28, 1875, a Supplementary Report was made prescribing the books. In August 27, 1874, a Committee of the Board recommended the adoption of *Royal Readers, Canadian Arithmetic*, elementary and advanced, used in Ontario, and Thompson's History of England. We publish the Order in the *Gazette* and other newspapers, and we send a copy to each School Visitor; but I do not send a copy of the Order or any notice to any of the schoolmasters.

Our object in notifying the School Visitors was that they should see the Order of the Board was carried out. I believe I informed the Visitors personally of the Order of the 27th August, not by writing.

The Board have not prescribed a complete series of school books.

The Supplementary Report of January 28, 1875, prescribed Todhunter's Algebra, Harkness' Latin and Greek Series, Manning's Spelling Book, Isbister's School and College Euclid, Ontario Grammar, elementary and advanced.

The Supplementary Report and the part not adopted, I will submit afterwards.

Subsequently the Board ordered that the use of Miss Thompson's History should be permissive. That was April 29, 1875. Present—Kelly, Arseneaux, Murray, Anderson, Roche and the Secretary.

Ordered, That the use of Thompson's History be permissive at option of parents. That is, the pupil could hear the History read, but could not be compelled to read it. No provision was made for the pupil's reading any other History if he did not read Thompson's.

The Board have never withheld any Schoolmaster's salary by reason of the books he used being denominational or otherwise.

The Board have never prescribed any system of education, denominational or otherwise, other than is implied from their printed rules.

I now produce the revised and amended regulations to be used in the public schools, passed in 1867.

These rules have been acted upon in my time constantly, and recognized by the Board.

By the 2nd Rule.

No books of any kind shall be used in the schools, except those approved of by the Board of Education from time to time.

I have furnished copies of these rules to all public schools on the Island.

On the 30th March, 1876, the Board passed a rule calling teachers' attention to those rules and regulations.

Nothing was brought to the notice of the Board, as such, to show the rules were not observed.

At the meeting of March 30, 1876, there was a full Board, except Rev. Mr. McLean, who was absent. Mr. Strong was appointed Chairman, in absence of Chairman, who subsequently arrived. The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and certified.

Report of examiners received.

Report of Visitor for Queen's County referred to sub committee, to have published directions to teachers and trustees ordered to be approved and published.

Those directions were prepared by me and submitted to the Board and approved.

The minutes of this meeting (April 3, 1876,) have not yet been approved.

The Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy through Rev. Mr. Currie, addressed the Board on the subject of that School and a Committee consisting of Judge Hensley, Charles Palmer, Esq., and Judge Reddin appointed to answer them.

Any teacher using books other than those allowed is not entitled to draw his pay.

I do not remember any complaint by any teacher, against those regulations nor (specially) as to the prayers.

I am not aware that anything in this prayer runs counter to any doctrine or tenet of any denomination.

The reports of the School Visitors for King's and Queen's Counties, received and laid on the table, 30th Dec., 1875, and a Committee of the Secretary and Mr. Kelly appointed to read, examine, and prepare them for publication. The Prince County Report was subsequently received.

We handed the Report to the Government, and I do not know that anything was eliminated, made scarcely any corrections. We handed the original copy to the Clerk of the Executive Council.

As far as I have visited the schools, I have seen the regulations and reports posted up.

The report of the use of sectarian books was submitted to a Committee by order of the Board. The Board itself, did not, at that time, have Visitor's Report read; it was submitted to the Board, but has not yet been read. The Board has taken no action on the Report.

As to teaching catechisms in the Common Schools, the Board, by its published order, and by orders to the Visitors, has covered the whole ground. Did not take any more direct action. Did not try to ascertain names of teachers who taught catechism. Have not yet inquired into the matter.

We have made no report to the Board as Publishing Committee.

Since 30th December, 1875, only three monthly meetings have been held.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL.

The first intimation of this becoming a public school, save by the notice from Trustees of intention to take advantage of, and put school under the regulations of the Act, laid before the Board, was the application made by the Trustees for the examination of Teachers, made 13th September, 1875.

The application was made through Mr. Kelly, and they were examined in my office and passed.

I then received notice of their engagement by the Trustees. Did not inform Board of their appointment.

The district was laid off years ago, but there was no public schools in it. At this time and for a year before, there was no public school. After receiving notice of their engagement, I forwarded them a copy of the rules and regulations. I do not know if this was within the knowledge of the Board.

I knew the school had been denominational. I considered it the duty of the School Visitor to inquire if the school had ceased to be denominational. I may have had some indirect intimation that the character of the school was unaltered.

I do not remember if I had any conversation with the Visitor on the subject.

I believe I had some general conversation with him, but was not impressed by it.

I was not prepared with such information, but expected them to abide by the regulations.

I may have had fears of them. I do not know if others of the Board shared those fears, and I did not take steps to ascertain if those fears were well grounded.

Three months after their engagement, I certified for payment of their salaries. I did not then take any steps to ascertain how the school was conducted. This was in January, and in December Visitors' report was received.

The certificates were dated 10th January, and certified 24th January, nearly a month after receiving Report.

I read the Report and told Mr. Kelly of it. He said he was satisfied when I offered it to him. I did not make any special mention of St. Patrick's school to him.

I considered the matter in a transition state, and did not for the present consider it my duty to take up the matter.

I did not consider it my special duty to inquire for names of teachers teaching denominational books. Have never refused to certify on account of such teaching.

I had no official intimation of such teaching previous to Report. I have heard general rumors, through the press, &c., but these were never taken up at the Board.

I do not remember talking with the Visitor specially on the subject of St. Patrick's School.

If I knew of any catechism being taught I would call such teaching denominational.

I brought the Report into the Board Room and submitted it. I received it from the Visitor, it was ordered to be referred to Committee of Kelly and myself for publishing.

I had a general impression that French schools used denominational books.

It has been the custom of the Board not to consider the Report till published. I thought it better not to bring the Report before the Board till published. The Board has not met since.

I only recollect one reference, from Prince County, which was about French schools, to Sectarian teaching. The Board took no action, but intended to do so, but difficulty of procuring suitable French books prevented them. I knew that such a state of things existed, but felt the difficulty of procuring French undenominational books. These Prince County allusions were published in the Reports. They were in 1873.

QUESTION—After St Patrick's School came under the Board you say you forwarded them Regulations. You know Visitor had inspected them, &c. Did you ask had school complied with Regulations?

ANSWER—I do not recollect.

When I certify teacher's papers this does not come before the Board.

A good deal of what has been said about the city schools is true. There are special enactments for the city. Board has taken up the question and frequently appointed Committees to examine. The Board some two or three years ago, recommended to Government the amalgamation of several schools in the basement of the Athenæum. This was not acted on by Government.

Before I was on the Board, a Committee took up the subject, and recommended issuing Government debentures to raise funds, but Government did not see their way to adopt this course.

We made no alterations save verbal corrections in this year's Report.

The Board have made recommendations to Government for re-improvement of City schools.

On the 29th of January, 1874, received a petition for the union of three schools, also a letter from J. W. Morrison on the subject. *Ordered*, that a Committe report on it. The Report recommended the uniting of these three schools under good teachers. I believe the Board has repeatedly called the attention of various Governments to the state of the City schools and Act.

A letter was received from J. W. Morrison, offering basement of Athenæum. *Ordered*, that Government be requested to appoint three teachers for this school, one with $600.

A letter was received from J. W. Morrison.

Ordered, That His Honor the Administrator of the Government in Council, be requested to sanction the appointment of three teachers in basement story of Athenæum, with a salary of $600 to one of the teachers, and that the Trustees of said school be empowered to assess the parents or guardians of the children attending, a sum sufficient to meet current expenses.

WEDNESDAY, 26th April, 1876.

Present, full Committee.

DONALD McNEILL'S *examination continued*:

REPLY CONCERNING ATHENÆUM.

On enquiry at Mr. DesBrisay's office, I was told he did not believe anything could be done. No written reply was received by me. I am not able to produce any written reply.

In 1870, a recommendation was made, taking up the whole state of the city schools, dealing with them fully and recommending action to the Government of the day. This was made 1st March, 1870, and signed by Charles Palmer, Ed. Roche, George Beer, and the Rev. Mr. Murray.

I now produce the recommendation.

I am unable to state whether any reply was received to this.

A further recommendation was made by the Board on the 27th May, 1875, when Mr. Murray brought the matter up and recommended that a committee be appointed to report on city schools. Committee appointed.

The Report of this Committee was received and adopted, and same Committee appointed to carry out their recommendations. I have not this Report, but can produce it at some future meeting.

Action (on this Report) was referred to the Committee to carry out their own suggestions, and they tried to get schools built, but owing to want of funds were unable to do so.

This inability to carry out recommendation not brought to notice of Government.

QUESTION—Concerning number of vacant schools in the country—

EXPLAINED—I think chief cause to be lowness of teacher's salary. The Board have taken no steps to obtain information on this subject. My own opinion is that vacancies are due to low salaries.

Board have conversed on the state of the schools, but no members thought fit to make any recommendations, as they could not, under the Act, improve the schools, unless the Act was amended. The members of the Board frequently referred to the lowness of salary and want of a Chief Superintendent to administer the law.

QUESTION.—What are the radical defects of the Act?

ANSWER.—They are numerous, one is the system of paying wholly out of the Treasury. I believe it impossible to secure co-operation of Trustees and parents in different districts to carry out this Act, while the salary is so paid. Many regard the service of the Teacher as of no value, as costing them nothing; if made to contribute directly, parents and teachers would value it more.

At present there is no direct communication between the Board and Trustees. At present the Secretary has no authority, save on a few points, and action must be suspended from time to time till Board meets.

By General Superintendent, I mean one who would have general entire control with a small advisory Board.

A radical defect is that there is no provision for grading schools, and the way Grammar Schools are conducted. I would have graded common schools, with few Grammar Schools. By graded schools I mean two or three separate departments in one school.

Very few or none of our Grammar Schools are graded. A few have ushers, and a few assistant teachers. There is no accommodation for more than one teacher. The law only provides for an usher, not for assistant teacher.

The scarcity of teachers accounts for so many vacancies. There is an actual scarcity of teachers.

In some rural districts grades could be applied, in others not,—as in villages and scattered districts. The grading should be reserved for a General Superintendent and Advisory Board.

I do not think the present school houses would do for graded schools without enlarging, nearly all are too small.

The Board, since I became Secretary has not reported and recommended changes in the School Act to the Government save those mentioned with regard to the City.

If graded schools were established I believe it would reduce the number of districts and improve the schools, by making the scholars collect, and enlarging the districts, and it would save expense.

I am to some extent acquainted with the Nova Scotia Act. That system admits of grading, and salaries are derived from three sources viz:—County, Local and Provincial. I believe the schools there have been satisfactory to the people.

The Board has had correspondence with the Government in regard to improvement of the Normal School, and the Government concurred. This is now being carried out.

Board has had correspondence with the Government on other minor subjects.

I have no more correspondence on the subject of those radical defects?

Some years ago an attempt was made to raise Teachers' salaries by local taxation, but failed through prejudice of people against it. I believe the people did not understand its scope.

QUESTION.—What sectarian books are used in Protestant schools.

I am not aware of any save what came out in the last Report, which does not state the books. I have no knowledge myself.

I do not know that Protestant books are used in Belfast. I have no personal knowledge of the teaching carried on in St. Patrick's School. I know something about the Ontario School Act, am not prepared to say if it would be acceptable to the people here, and if it would work satisfactorily. I think it would not suit, I only give this as my opinion.

I think our local Trustees are negligent in carrying out the Act. Our Act puts hinderances in the way of carrying itself out. It is ambiguous and leads to confusion. It requires ten of a majority at a meeting of residents in a district, and often only one is to be had.

No new schoolhouses can be built nor old ones repaired, without the vote of a majority of the residents, and many residents never attend.

I would give power to whatever number met after due notice to elect Trustees, whether few or many. I would give this meeting power to do whatever was required and to dismiss teachers, subject to appeal to the Board.

I would make the Trustees a body corporate.

The Board has not made representation to the Government concerning defects, because the Board felt discouraged, it repeatedly tried to remedy the state of things. The Act was unworkable and the Board could not get any Government to move in the matter for the last six or seven years.

Since I became Secretary the Board has not taken up the matter as a whole.

I believe the Board is too large to carry out the law. There are eleven members.

In many instances complaints have been made by Trustees of inability to perform their duties. The Trustees complain that they cannot get a majority of residents to attend meetings. The Board did not bring this before the Government for the reason before mentio