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# THE ADVANCE.

*A. R. Fawcett, — Editor.*

FLESHERTON:
THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1885.


## *THE NEW SCHOOL LAWS.*

Minister Ross, we notice, has introduced a measure for the consolidation of the School Laws. Whatever becomes of it, he must be congratulated for the attempt.

The School Law is, as he stated, very badly arranged and equally bad to understand—the classification intended where the subjects and the laws governing each subject are given in a compact form is very desirable and will be appreciated.

The subject of Union Schools is quite timely, where provision is to be made that one municipality cannot withdraw at pleasure to the hurt of the other contracting party; but the matter must be first submitted to a Board of Arbitrators, both to form or disolve such Unions. The duty for assessors if required annually, would be unnecessary. The Board that forms the Union could equalize about once in four or five years, and decide at once on the proportion each part of the section should raise to furnish any given sum. This would dispense with the necessity of equalization annually. For instance Township A should be required to raise three-fourths, more or less, and Township B one-fourth, or balance of sum required over a series of years as aforesaid, let the assessment on the land be what it might during the term.

The disparity of School Rates in a municipality is indeed a very vexed question—Section one puts on 5 mills; Section two 6 mills in the dollar. The question arises, why should Section 2 be rated higher than Section 1? If the property of the Township must pay for the education of the children, is it fair, that one portion of the Township should pay more than another? Township Boards would rectify this inequality, but, as the Minister states, the people do not adopt this system.

His plan is a novel one, if we understand aright, viz., that the sum of $100 shall be raised by Council by a general rate for every school in the Township, excepting Union Schools, for which a proportionate sum would be raised, and for schools employing two Teachers, $50 additional would be raised for such extra teacher. In this way small school sections would be assisted, to some slight extent, by the larger ones; but it strikes us, the benefits would scarcely warrant the change anticipated.

If, in addition, the Government would grant, to sections of small area and small numerical strength, out of the school fund a sum corresponding to its comparative weakness, the combined sums would give ample relief in the direction desired, and against which no reasonable objection could be raised.

The Board of Examiners certainly requires modification; the proposed per capita rate for examinations is one also in the right direction. As it is now, Examiners may use as much time as they please and the County must "pay the piper." Good-natured Examiners certify for each other and the Treasury is, in some cases, wantonly depleted. In this County the cost for each pupil at the High School Entrance Examination is about $1.25 as charged. Is not this sum at sight extravagant? Recollect this has nothing to do with the expenses attending applicants; it is the sum paid to Examiners, who are the High School Teacher and Inspector. Here is the High School Teacher charging $3 per day—say for 20 days—to examine material for his own school; and an Inspector at $5 per day, also receiving a liberal salary. Yet the people are mulcted with such extravagant charges. It should be the duty of those gentlemen to do such work for a mere nominal charge of say 25 cents per head; and each applicant should furnish his or her own stationery.

But should not every Examiner be qualified? Are there not old fossils, whose duties are performed perfunctorily; and but for the Teachers, High School or Model Examinations would be a farce. The Minister should demand that no Inspector, unless fully up, should take part in any such Examinations.

And whilst the Minister is consolidating the School Law, he should insist that Inspectorates should be sufficiently large to occupy the full attention of the Inspectors. How is it possible for a man with a multitude of offices to discharge his duties to the schools? Let us have men duly qualified, men of thoroughness, men who have vim to discharge their duties, and let those who have outlived their usefulness be superannuated.

The holiday subject is likewise appropo. It does not seem proper, if Teachers are employed at the beginning of holidays, that such a Teacher should receive pay for such time; let it be optional with the Trustees. So we say.

We anxiously await the result of legislation—especially as we learn, that it will affect both our own Township and the County. Unless the temper of the County Council changes the School question will be gone into thoroughly—a very influential committee having been formed to ascertain the propriety of three Inspectors, of whom it is said some of them are incompetent to obtain third class Teacher's certificates and are Inspectors of Schools where Teacher's hold a second or first class! Is it not time such incompetents were removed to their proper and legitimate spheres?

## *THE PEOPLE TO "PAY FOR THE WHISTLE."*

The School Book affair has been very nicely managed by our local Government as may be inferred from the following which we clip from the Woodstock *Times:*

"The school book monopoly is one of the greatest pieces of jobbery ever prepetrated by a government. Three publishers have been granted the sole right to publish the readers for a period of ten years. The books cost 68cts., and are sold to the public at $1.35.; forty per cent profit to the ring and twenty-seven per cent profit to the bookseller. It is said the ring will net half a million of dollars. The plates cost the Ontario Government $7,500, and the right of publishing from the plates has been given to Mr. Nelson, of the *Globe*, Gage & Co., and the Canada Publishing Co. Nelson has already disposed of his right to Copp, Clark & Co. for a bonus of $25,000, To show the extent of this injustice, we might mention that one of the largest publishing firms in Toronto offered to publish books for 33½ per cent less than the Government ring."

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**FROM THE SON:** "28 Cedar St., New York, Oct. 28, 1882.

"*Gentlemen:* My father resides at Glover, Vt. He has been a great sufferer from Scrofula, and the inclosed letter will tell you what a marvelous effect

## Ayer's Sarsaparilla

has had in his case. I think his blood must have contained the humor for at least ten years; but it did not show, except in the form of a scrofulous sore on the wrist, until about five years ago. From a few spots which appeared at that time, it gradually spread so as to cover his entire body. I assure you he was terribly afflicted, and an object of pity, when he began using your medicine. Now, there are few men of his age who enjoy as good health as he has. I could easily name fifty persons who would testify to the facts in his case.

Yours truly, W. M. PHILLIPS."

**FROM THE FATHER:** "It is both a pleasure and a duty for me to state to you the benefit I have derived from the use of

## Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Six months ago I was completely covered with a terrible humor and scrofulous sores. The humor caused an incessant and intolerable itching, and the skin cracked so as to cause the blood to flow in many places whenever I moved. My sufferings were great, and my life a burden. I commenced the use of the SARSAPARILLA in April last, and have used it regularly since that time. My condition began to improve at once. The sores have all healed, and I feel perfectly well in every respect—being now able to do a good day's work, though 73 years of age. Many inquire what wrought such a cure in my case, and I tell them, as I have here tried to tell you, AYER'S SARSAPARILLA. Glover, Vt., Oct. 1882. Yours gratefully, HIRAM PHILLIPS."

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