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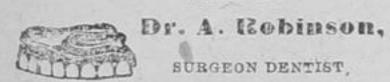
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Our Schools.

PAST AND PRESENT.

A few days ago, the trustees of the School Board received a circular from Dr. J. G. Hodgins, historiographer for the Education Department, requesting infor mation in connection with the development of education in the village of Richmond Hill, to be embodied in a documentary history of education in Upper Canada from the year 1791, under the instructions of the Minister of Education. One of our correspondents by request has written the following paper for the readers of THE LIBERAL !-

Education began in Richmond Hill under very primitive circumstances. Previous to the introduction of the common school system, our boys and girls stood Richmond Hill Office open every but a slim chance of obtaining even the rudiments of education. If "ignorance is bliss" the majority of the juveniles of that day must have been a happy lot.

There were, however, in the early history of our village, a few families who did not believe with the poet that "a little learning is a dangerous thing," but a little knowledge, if it was not profound, was better than none; so, if there happened to be among them a man who could read and write, with time on his hands, his services were secured and his abilities utilized for the benefit of the rising generation.

The term generally lasted through the winter months until "sugar making time," when all the youngsters were wanted to carry sap and sticks to keep the "kittle bilin." After that, there was always something to do at home, so the rest of the year was "vacation."

Our first school first held in a "deserted settlement duty house," with earth floor and pine blocks for seats. The master's desk was a hewn pine log slab, with legs of the same material. The books-all sorts and sizes-(home supplies), were few and far between, and were shoved along the class until each scholar got his share of the lesson. The first passable supply of books of instruction that arrived in our village was imported from England by James Miles, Esq, and reached here two mouths from the date of the order. They were supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Any danger arising from the use of the Bible, as a text book, in the common school, had not then occurred to the unsophisticated mind of those early days.

Our village, with a very indifferent knowledge of management and discipline. adopted the public school system of 1816 the germ of what has become one of the noblest institutions in our Dominion, and the admiration of visitors from many lands.

The school, being an infaht industry of those days, received its share of governof £6,000 for the payment of teachers and the purchase of school supplies, which was afterwards greatly increased. This was an inducement for our people to build their first school house. It was the second hewed log building erected in the village, showing our advancement in architecture and public spirit. Its foundation was laid in 1820, in a small clearing, a couple of rods south of the present school site, which was then covered with forest. Like all large public undertakings, it took some time in its erection, but when built was a substantial structure, doing duty as a school house, place of worship, and Town Hall, for nearly thirty years, when it gave way in the march of improvement to its brick successor built

in 1847. Mr. Benjamin Barnard, a gentleman from Surry, England, was our first schoolmaster. He "taught the young idea how to shoot" intellectually, on what was then considered a liberal sti pend of twelve dollars a quarter, and board around-two weeks in a family. Tradition informs us that he really earned the whole of his magnificent salary, for he was intensely interested in the education of the young, and hunted up every child old enough to get there. He put the "Truant Act" in operation long before the Legislature launched it, for after four o'clock the parents of an absentee would see the master coming round the corner of the bush, or striding across the clearing to know the reason

'Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace

The day's disasters in his morning face." Under the successive revisions and im provements of the School Act, by the Legislature in 1860, 1865 and especially in 1871, the school continued to advance in efficiency, and many who are in good positions to day are grateful for the edu cational privileges they then enjoyed

Up to 1866, the public school was sustained by the Rate bill, with all its objec tionable features, but with us the ar, ument that property should be assessed for education, as well as for protection, early prevailed. In 1867, its doors were thrown open to all who choose to enter.

When the village set up municipal housekeeping for itself in 1873, our share of the Clerry Reserve fund was \$1,450.

Richmond Hill High School was established Dec. 2,1851. Its first accommodation was in the house now occupied by Mrs James Jenkins. It was afterwards located | ato of Toronto University, and editor of in a new building erected by A. Law, for a more suitable accommodation. A committee composed of the Rev. James Dick, chairman; G. P. Dickson Esq., secretary; and Messrs. Teefy, Col. Bridgford and Dr. Langstaff, with money raised by subscription, and some assistance from the Government, obtained by Amos Wright, M P., erected a commodious building for the sum of \$640 on the school site donated by Squire James Miles. Builder Mr James Newton, sen. With one exception, all these active propassed over to the majority beyond.

In 1853 the trustees of the Public and High schools became a united Board. The following gentlemen were the earliest Rev. D E. Blake, Amos Wright, M.P. The secretaries were G. P. Dickson, Rev. J. K. Falconbridge, Esq., J.P. Mr. Wm. Clark was the first head master, at a salschool fees.

No school building is complete without a bell, and no respectable bell with suspended in a cupola. In 1851, Mr. M. tee to obtain the required indispensable. Applying to T. D. Harris, hardware merthem all, but pointing to one of superior 118 value. Mr. Teefy equietly remarked he would take the bell. It now swings miry condition of the track. aloft, above the assembled wisdom that Over fifty years ago, the revolutionary government of Spain, pressed for money, and animated with a spirit of reform, convent bells. These bells were sent to

JOSE, 1817." Headmaster, James Crozier, B.A.

trustees offered a prize in books to each | do not stimulate the pupils by encouragpupil who passed the intermediate exam- | ing them to enter in the competition, Master James Stewart.

Windeat, A. M. Lafferty, B. A., J. W. Crozier, B.A., James McMurchy, B.A., Thos. Carscadden, B A, W. McBride, B. A., J. McBride, B. A., T. H. Redditt, B A., H. McCuaig, B. A., and J. A. Monroe, B. A.

The present teaching staff of our High and Public schools consist of the following: Neil Robertson, B. A., principal; Mr. Alex. McLean, assistant; Mr. J. E. Clubine and Miss E. Newton, intermediate; and Mrs. M, Wiley, who has been over the primary department sixteen years.

As a contrast to the rustic accommodations and simple appliances of early days, we have now good High and Public school buildings, with all the necessary modern machinery for the intusion of knowledge into the heads of the rising generation, enabling our children to acquire the mental calibre that will not only fit them for good citizenship, but help them to reach advanced positions in the higher walks of life.

From the Richmond Hill school have gone many who have become teachers in High and Public schools, medicos, lawyers, engineers and clergymen, many of whom fill honorable positions in society. Among them may be mentioned William Glenholme Falconbridge, who is a Judge of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice

and a member of the Senate of Toronto University; John R. Teefy, B.A., Superfor the dispensing of superior education | ior and President of St. Michael's College, Toronto, also member of the Serthe Catholic Register, and George Dick-Esq. Meantime arrangements were made | son, Esq., Principal and First English Master of Upper Canada College. These all reflect credit on their alma

mater. Richmond Hill, May 24, 1894.

## QUEEN'S BIRTH-DAY.

### The Annual Fair and Evening Concert.

"Given fair weather, our exhibition moters of education in our village have is a pronounced success." The above and similar expressions could be heard ten days ago, when the directors of the Richmond Hill & Yonge Street Agricultural Society were completing arrangeficers of the joint Trustee Board: The ments for their Annual Spring Fair to be held on the 24th of May. But, as the G. P. Dickson, J. P., Rev. James Dick. rain came down in torrents day after day, until every field and park was like a James Dick, M. Teefy, J.P.; treasurers, swamp, the prospects for a successful time grew less and less. The directors, however, did not feel justified in postary of \$320 and three fourths of the poning the fair, knowing that even one warm day, with the assistance of old sol and his drying propensities, would be sufficient to put the park and race track high aspirations is at home unless it is in a reasonably good condition. Many visitors came to town on the evening of Teety, trustee, was appointed a commit- the 23rd, and we learn from the secretary that up to that time the number of entries for the next day's fair was larger chant, Toronto; he was shown a row of than any previous year's at a correspondbells to select from. The dealer lauded | ing date. But when the Queen's Birthday was ushered in cold and wet, the tone and finish, said, in an undertone, that | most hopeful could only look forward to he would sell that one for less, because a day of partial success. The gate rethere was on it a cross, which depreciated | ceipts were smaller probably from the fact that the officers announced early in that he did not think that the cross was | the day that the horse races and bicycle any very serious objection, and said that races could not take place, owing to the

There was some good stock on the gathers below. This beil has a history. grounds, but many more noble animals would have been on exhibition had the weather been at all tavorable.

Everything considered there was a confiscated a large number of church and good display in the Agricultural Hall. Mr. Wm. Trench had on exhibition a the city of New York to be disposed of to number of fine carriages and waggons, the best advantage. Some of them were and those from the shops of Mr. James restored to the use for which they were | Macdonald, Thornhill, also had many consecrated, but by far the greater num- admirers. Every rig on exhibition had ber were scattered abroad among schools. | an excellent finish, and the workmanship railways, steamboats and factories. There | was a credit to their respective makers. is no doubt that the one that has called Mr. O. J. Brown's organs and sewing the past and present generation of Rich- machines occupied the south western mond Hill juveniles to obtain scholastic | corner of the building, and opposite was attainments, in years gone by, has rung the display of last year's grain, roots, out its peals over hills and valleys of &c., which was very creditable. Mr. sunny Spain, calling the faithful to the Geo. McDonald showed two sets of light devotions of the hour, for on it is the harness, which were neatly finished. A cross, and the inscription " + MARIA Y | wheel plow, manufactured by Fleury & Sons, Stouffville, with Tinkler's patent The old High school outlived its useful- wheel attachment, was examined by ness, and a new High school building was farmers, and was pronounced to be one erected in 1873, at a cost of \$5,000. Mr. of the best kind of plows made. In the John Harris, architect; Messrs. Newton | ladies' department hearly every class was and Davis builders. The trustees were filled. A good deal of the work was new, the Rev. James Dick, chairman; Robert | and so keen was the competition that, in Marsh, Esq., secretary; and Messrs. some cases, the awarding of the prizes to David Boyle, N. C. Wallace, Wells, Mc- those best entitled to them was no easy Nair, Sheppard, Trench, Teefv, Lang- task for the fair judges. The writing staff, Line and William Patterson, and drawing by pupils from Public Schools was well executed, but it is to be In 1877, in order to stimulate study, the regretted that teachers in rural sections

ination. The first winners of the prize | The Richmond Hill Band were in their offered were Master Fred Lawrence and | best form, and played some very fine selections during the afternoon. When The muster roll of headmasters, who the rain came on, the Band continued for nearly half a century have endeav- their sweet strains of music in the ored to "form the common mind" in our hall. The only accident of the day ocvillage, is as follows: Wm. Clark. James | curred about 5 p. m., when the concert Forrest, Rev. James Boyd, Rev. Samuel | platform gave way, just as the band had Johnson, M.A., Rev. Robt. Rodgers, finished playing their last selection. Arthur Cole Verner, Louis H. Evans, B. | Fortunately no person was hurt, but one A., James M. Dunn, Wm. Bond, James or two pieces of furniture from Savage's show rooms, which were on the platform Jolly, R. A. Robertson, M. A., James | as an exhibit, were more or less damaged. The following is the prize list:

HORSES-

IMPORTED DRAUGHT Stallion aged - D C Steele. Sucking colt by St. Leger-John Hart, T F Boynton.

CANADIAN DRAUGHT

Brood mare aged-David Lynet, Geo Padget. Filly or gelding 2 year old-David Lynet, James McLean, Span of horses-Peter Boynton, James McLean. GENERAL PURPOSE

Brood mare aged- John Hart, T Woolerton. Filly or gelding 2 year old -Wm Watson, T Woolerton. Span of horses-R B Elliott, T F Boynton.

Jubges-Geo Gormley, Jas Torrance; James Legge. CARRIAGE HORSES

Stallion 2 year old-C Binn. Filly or gelding 2 year old-Geo Padget, Geo Forester. Filly or gelding 1 year old-A Marsh & Son.

ROADSTERS

Stallion aged-Graham Bros., L Line. Stallion 3 year old-John McBrice, W

(Continued on Fourth page.)