

Education in Nova Scotia.

The following is a very brief outline of the Report of the Rev. Dr. Forrester, recently presented to the Legislature:

"The appendix to the report shows the number of schools and school districts in the province, &c., &c.

Dr. Forrester states, however, that these tables cannot be altogether depended upon as shewing the state of education in the province, since there are some hundreds of districts from which no returns at all have been received, and those districts, generally speaking, are in a much worse condition than those from which reports have been obtained.

The amount raised by the people for educational purposes in 1859, exceeds the sum so raised in 1858 by upwards of £1,300. It appears that the allowance made by the province on behalf of common school education is considerably less in proportion to the population than that of any surrounding colony or state. There is a considerable increase in the school attendance. In the summer of 1858 there were 34,440 children at school, and last year there were 37,844, being an increase of upwards of 4,000. The number of teachers, male and female, employed last summer, was 1,140, making thereby the average salary of each £44 per annum, being a considerable advance on the previous year. The number of Grammar schools in operation in 1859 was 56, being an increase of five on the preceding year.

Upwards of 100 persons have obtained first class diplomas at the Normal School since its commencement.

In the winter term of 1858 and '59 the number enrolled was 72 and 1, paying pupil, of whom, at the close of the term, 3 obtained grammar school diplomas, 16 first class, and 27 second class. At the present session there were in attendance twenty more pupils than at any preceding one. The superintendent strongly urges the establishment of a small consulting library for the students of the Normal School, consisting of books on the profession of teaching and a good assortment of choice school text books, &c., and also the formation of a small museum. Mr. Williams (a gentleman every way qualified for the office) is now employed as a teacher of music at the Normal School; but there is no provision made by the Legislature for his payment, and Dr. F. has been obliged to remunerate him partly by the proceeds of paying pupils (not amounting now to more than £5 or £6), partly by drawing on the sum allowed for the current expenses, and partly from his own resources in the hope of being, sometime or other, refunded.

Dr. Forrester states that the Model Schools continue much in the same condition as heretofore. The number of pupils enrolled is 193, and the average attendance 169. The number of pupils studying classics is 27, modern languages 26, and algebra and mathematics 29. Dr. F. states that he has visited during the past year all the counties in Nova Scotia proper, except South Pictou, Guysboro' and Sydney, and that in all these counties he has met teachers, and addressed public audiences in every town, village, and important settlement. Dr. F. comments on the little interest that is taken in the Journal of Education and Agriculture, and suggests that it should be made compulsory on every teacher receiving public money to take a copy, and also upon the Agricultural societies to take a certain number of copies for distribution among their members.

Dr. F. eloquently pleads for direct educational taxation, and compulsory attendance at the school; the building of a better class of school houses; the graduation of schools; and the establishment of a Central Board of Education, of which the superintendent shall, ex officio, be a member;—and compelling the teachers to teach at least for 12 months. He also urges the establishment of a Provincial University for literature, philosophy and science, as a befitting cope stone for our Provincial educational fabric. He observes that the state of common education in Halifax, Windsor, &c., is worse, he believes, than in all the neighbouring country. He advises the passage of a compulsory legislative enactment compelling all towns and villages to assess themselves for the erection of commodious school houses, or else the enactment of an interim declaratory law, by which the Boards of School Commissioners shall be prohibited from granting any public money to towns and villages that do not provide themselves with school houses adapted to the number and circumstances of the population. Dr. Forrester recommends the dissolution of the of the present Boards of School Commissioners throughout the Province, and the establishment in lieu thereof of County or District Boards of Examiners and a Central Board of Education. He suggests that these Boards of Examiners should examine and grant licenses to the teachers, and should consist of three practical men, that the local inspector should be ex officio, a member of such board, and that a regular scale of qualifications for each class of teachers shall be drawn up for the guidance of these boards. He recommends the employment of three Inspectors of Schools to be remunerated by the £600 at present paid by way of commission to the clerks of the school boards. If county local boards should still exist for the purpose of deciding all matters connected with the division of the county into school districts, &c. he thinks that it would be better that they should be selected and appointed by the people themselves instead of by the government.

It appears from the tabular statements annexed to this report that there are 1,138 schools in the province receiving provincial aid and educating 37,844 scholars, at a cost to the province of 3s. 3d. per pupil, and to the pupil of 9s. 5d.

Education in New Brunswick.

The eighth Annual Report of the Chief Superintendent of Schools for New Brunswick gives some interesting items of information respecting the progress of education in our sister province.

We make the following extracts from a summary in the Courier of the 31st ult.

On the death of Mr. Henry Fisher, the late Chief Superintendent, during the past year, Mr. Bennet was appointed to fill that office.

"Mr. Bennet pays a just tribute to the memory of his predecessor Mr. Fisher, and adds—'If a more enlightened public opinion prevails on the subject of popular education than formerly; if society has been brought to look with increased respect and favour upon Teachers and their profession; if Teachers themselves are beginning to appreciate more fully the dignity and importance of their calling, and these are no mere suppositions, then is the credit in a great measure due to the energetic efforts of the late Chief Superintendent. The man who in so short a time was instrumental in bringing about such pleasing results, merits our gratitude, and his memory will be cherished for the good he did; while our regrets are awakened by his untimely removal which left his work unfinished.'"

We learn that the average number of regular Teachers employed during the year were 806, of whom 411 are trained. That 208 were admitted to the Training School and licensed in 1859. And that the total of trained Teachers in the Province now reaches 619—a feature in our educational advancement, which must tell favourably on the youthful portion of our population. Fifty-four new school houses had been erected during the year; and the greater proportion of the old buildings had undergone repairs. By a recent order of the Board of Education every School District establishing a Library of the minimum value of £7 10s. 0d., including the provincial bonus of fifty per cent. on local contributions, becomes entitled to receive a copy of the new map of the Province gratis. Additional agencies for the sale of school books, had been established during the year at Bay Verte, Salisbury, Sackville, Hillsborough, Boiestown, Buctouche and Campbellton; and £53 10s. had been expended in French school books, consisting of a syllabair, a geography, grammar and arithmetic.

On this The Courier remarks,—We deem this latter act of the Provincial authorities very reprehensible, as one tending to perpetuate two nationalities within our boundaries; and as also preventing that social intercourse between the distant sections of our population which a common language is alone fitted to sustain." There are 2 Superior Schools in Carleton County, 2 in Northumberland, 1 in Restigouche, 3 in St. John, 1 in Sunbury, 1 in Westmorland and 2 in York County.

The Training School continues to be numerously attended by Pupil Teachers. The Superintendent views with concern the growing disproportion between the number of male and female teachers, and arrives at the conclusion "that we have more female Teachers already than the country wishes to employ, or is likely to profit by."* For the term ending 30th Sep., 1859, we find the number of schools to be 818, supplied by 456 male and 367 female Teachers, the pupils attending 13,770 males, 11,988 females; of those numbers 204 were studying Geometry, 254 Mensuration, 60 Land Surveying, 41 Navigation, and 234 Algebra.

Of the teachers 168 were Episcopalians, 138 Presbyterians, 122 Methodists, 196 Baptists, 20 Congregationalists, 12 unascertained, and 177 Roman Catholics. The Provincial allowance amounted to £10,264 9s. 1d. and local contributions to £13,465 4s. 6d.

Accompanying the Superintendent's Report, are the Reports of the District Inspectors. The frequent change of Teachers is a subject of serious complaint by them. Mr Duval states "during my second inspection of this year I found that out of 208 Schools there had been 119 changes since my previous visit;" Mr. D. suggests that instruction in the theory and practice of Agriculture, and lessons in practical Geology and Mineralogy should be given to the male Teachers in their respective Schools. And he affirms it as his conviction, that the assessment question for the support of schools, is gaining favour in the rural districts. Inspector Campbell informs us that on the Eastern side of our (St. John) harbor there is not a public school house, and on the Western side but one. 35 schools were in operation in the City, in private buildings.

The Courier thinks that the proceeds of the Fisheries of the Harbor could not be applied to a more useful object than in thus providing suitable establishments for the education of the rising generation. In Victoria County there are twelve French schools. Teachers and scholars have commenced to study the English language. The Inspector concludes his report by the statement that "Teachers have been stimulated to increased diligence; and I trust the day is not far distant when it can be said, 'of a truth,' that New Brunswickers are an educated people." Alluding to the Parish of Dundas, in Kent, the Inspector says,—"In this Parish, and in several others in the northern district, the practice prevails of employing Teachers not possessed of the legal qualifications. To enumerate all the evils attendant on this much-to-be-deprecated system, would be to unduly extend this paragraph; but at the risk of being tedious, I cannot help reminding the Board of the fact, that many, if not the whole of these Teachers succeed through interest with

*NOTE.—This remark seems strangely at variance with the view commonly entertained respecting the suitability of females for Teachers.—Ed. C. M.

the Government in one way or other, in drawing as much money from the public chest as those who by law are entitled to it; at the same time that the Trustees and Inspector, from a desire to discountenance the irregularity as much as possible, do not visit or examine these schools.

Mr. W. Mills's "Report of the Training and Model School," is quite interesting, and we are pleased to find that so competent a judge bears this testimony. That "There is no deficiency of natural talent amongst the youth of this country, and many possess a aptness to teach," and the faculty of acquiring knowledge in a remarkable degree." The numbers admitted to the Training School in 1859, were, 115 young women, and 42 young men; in attendance since 1858, 19 of the former, and 7 of the latter; and there attended for re-examination, 11 women and 14 men, in all 208, indicating an increasing desire among the young people of the Province to profit by the means of improvement afforded by the Institution." Of the 208, the natives of the Province were 200; of Ireland, 3; Scotland, 1; Nova Scotia, 3; and Canada, 1.—74 were Baptists, 39 Episcopalians; 35 Methodists; 25 Presbyterians; 4 Congregationalists; and 31 Roman Catholics;—112 under 20 years of age; 89 between 20 and 30; and 7 between 30 and 40.

The editor hopes the day is not far distant when a direct assessment for the support of schools will be levied throughout the Province; and when all denominational grants to schools will be swept from the statute book.

The Decimal Currency Act.

A "Memorandum on the Currency and Decimal System," has been published in the Morning Chronicle, over the signature of the Hon. Wm. Young. As we are informed in this Memorandum that the Bill goes into immediate operation, we shall give our readers as full extracts as our space will allow. We are surprised that the Act itself has not been sent to all the newspapers, as an advertisement. An Act affecting the Revenues and currency of the whole province, should surely have more publicity than a private memorandum can give it. Whilst we express this opinion, however, we shall not withhold the information it contains from our readers.

The Hon. gentleman remarks: "The bill which I introduced on these subjects in the Assembly, was assented to by the Lieutenant Governor on Saturday last, and goes into immediate operation, and along with the new tariff in dollars and cents. Notwithstanding the ample discussion which the bill underwent in both branches of the Legislature, I find that its objects and effects are still misunderstood, and as it enters so largely into transactions, and affects the interests of the whole community, I beg to offer the following explanations and commentary on its leading provisions.

The 1st and 2nd sections, after repealing the present law, declare that the coins hereafter mentioned shall be legal tenders in discharge of any present or future liability, at the following rates:

- The Sovereign at £1 stg., or 5 dollars.
- Doublon at £3 4s. stg., or 16 dollars.
- Dollar, of full weight and fineness, at 4s. 2d. stg., or 1 dollar and 4 cents.
- British Crown, at \$1 25 cents.
- Half-crown, at 62½ cents.
- Florin, at 50 cents.
- Shilling, at 25 cents.
- Six-pence, at 12½ cents.
- Four-pence, at 8 cents."

"The 4th section declares that the 20s. Treasury note shall hereafter be computed at 4 dollars.

The chief misunderstanding will probably arise, as it evinced itself in the debates, upon the 5th section. Its effect is confined solely to the construction of the Provincial laws heretofore enacted, and does not extend to private contracts, past or future. Many fees, charges, and other sums mentioned in these acts being expressed in pounds, shillings, and pence, it was necessary to declare the amount at which these sums shall hereafter be computed in dollars and cents, and the following scale, being a pretty near approximation to the true value, is set down in this section:

- A pound, shall represent 4 dollars; a shilling, 20 cents; a penny, 2 cents; 2d., 3½ cents; 3d., 5 cents; 4d., 6½ cents; 5d., 8½ cents; 6d., 10 cents; 7d., 11½ cents; 8d., 13 cents; 9d., 15 cents; 10d., 16½ cents; 11d., 18 cents; 12d., 20 cents.

Of these sums, the 3d., 6d., 9d and 12d., are exactly right—the others vary a fraction; but this is of little consequence, as private contracts are not touched. A man who has sold 1000 articles at 4d. each, will be still entitled to recover £16 13s. 4d.—equal to \$66 60c.—not \$65, as would be the case were the 4d. to be computed at 6½ cents. Had it been computed at 7 cents, he would have been entitled to recover \$70—\$3 33 too much, as the other would have been \$1 66 too little.

The 6th section provides that all judgments after the 1st of July next, shall be entered in dollars and cents; and the 7th, that executions upon subsisting judgments, or judgments entered previous to the 1st of July, may be taken out in pounds, shillings and pence, or in the corresponding amount of dollars and cents, at the option of the judgment creditor—a Judge of the Supreme Court, or Justice of the Peace, rendering the judgment to have power to rectify any omission or mistake on reasonable terms.

By the 8th section, the copper pence and half-pence heretofore issued by the Province to the extent of £6000, shall be received at the Treas-

ury, and the holders paid the full value at the rate of 60 pence, or 120 half pence to the dollar, in such amounts and at such periods as the Government may direct; and the copper money so paid in shall not be re issued, but shall be re-coined sold.

The 9th section empowers the Government to import and issue from the Treasury, copper, or bronze cents to the value of \$8000, and half-cents to the value of \$2000." "Half cents were necessary to make change for the 62½ and 12½ cent piece."

"The Legislature has not attempted to impose the obligation of adopting the decimal system on individuals or companies. It has only adopted the system in its own transactions and in the collection of the revenue."

"Till the new coinage arrives, the Post Master General has been instructed to demand three pence, or six half pence, for the stamp or postage of a single letter."

Lest the extensive change which the act introduce should lead, from expected and unforeseen causes, to confusion, the Legislature, by the 12th and last section, has empowered the Governor in Council to modify, restrain, or enlarge the terms of the act, by orders to be published in the Royal Gazette.

April 2nd 1860.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Presentation

TO THE REV. JOHN SHAW, PASTOR OF THE EAST POINT BAPTIST CHURCH:

Reverend Sir,—The young men of your church and congregation, wishing to shew the high esteem in which you are held by them, have procured for you a Sleigh and Set of harness, as a small token of that esteem, and have appointed us, on their behalf, to tender them to you for your acceptance.

It is now many years since you have come among us, preaching the Gospel of God. Your conversation in Christ, your labour of love and Christian sympathies with us since our earliest acquaintance with you, have won for yourself our respect, esteem and love. In our afflictions you have been afflicted, and in our prosperity none more heartily and cheerfully rejoiced than you.

Since the days of our youth you have watched over us as one that must give an account, and notwithstanding the carelessness and indifference, with which we too long listened to the solemn and important message you brought, has often grieved your righteous soul,—you have patiently continued your labours of love among us, reproving, rebuking, exhorting with all long suffering and doctrine; and through your instrumentality many of us have been led to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world.

You have not coveted our silver, or gold, or apparel. Your aim has been a higher and more noble one,—the salvation of our souls. If the love of money had moved you to preach the Gospel, you, dear sir, without a doubt, would have sought a more wealthy and liberal people for the field of your labour. For your disinterestedness and modesty in these matters, as well as for your labours of love, we respect, esteem, and love you, and, as a small token of which, we present you with the above. Please to gratify and honour us by your acceptance of them.

Signed, on behalf of the young men,
JOHN ROBERTSON,
ALEX. McLEAN,
ALEX. SCOTT.
East Point, P. E. I., March, 1860.

REPLY:

TO THE YOUNG MEN OF THE EAST POINT CHURCH AND CONGREGATION.

Gentlemen,—I thank you sincerely for your kind present, valuable in itself and still more so as an evidence of the feelings to which you have given expression, and of which it will be the pleasant memento.

From no other source could it be more acceptable. For none do I feel a more lively interest, a deeper sympathy, than that which I entertain towards you young men. To be useful to them is my sincere desire, and my highest ambition. I pray that my labors among you may not only be pleasing but profitable; that we may not only cherish reciprocal esteem, but being guided by the principles and cheered by the hopes of the Gospel, we may be united here by the strong tie of love to the same Saviour, and eternally by admission to the same heaven.

Again thanking you for the feelings you have manifested.

I remain Gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,
JOHN SHAW.
East Point, P. E. I., March, 1860.

Watching for riches consumeth the flesh, and the care thereof driveth away sleep.