

The Daily Herald.

VOL. IX.

FREDERICTON, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1904

NO. 54-62

SCHOOLS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Extracts from Annual Report of

CHIEF SUPT. INCH.

A Falling Off in Attendance and Some of the Causes.

In his annual report to the legislature on the schools of New Brunswick for the past year, Chief Supt. Inch says:

It is to be regretted that the number of schools in operation during the year under review, as well as the number of pupils enrolled, shows a considerable decrease in comparison with the corresponding numbers of recent years. The causes of the falling off will be discussed on a later page.

The following summary of the statistical tables presents a general comparison of the work of the two terms under review, with that of the corresponding terms of the previous twelve months:

Number of Schools, Teachers, Pupils, etc.

	1902-3	1902-3
	1st term	2nd term
No. schools...	1,778	1,726
Decrease.....	17	10
No. teachers..	1,858	1,815
Decrease.....	11	10
No. pupils....	57,518	59,313
Decrease.....	1,057	1,164

Proportion of Population at School.

	1st term.	2nd term.
	1902-3	1902-3

Proportion of population at school.. 1 in 5.75 1 in 5.59

No. of pupils under

6 years of age.. 1,482 1,258

Decrease..... 163 264

No. between 6 and

15..... 53,746 54,628

Decrease..... 882 722

No. over 15 years

..... 2,290 3,427

Decrease..... 12 178

Number of boys...

..... 28,189 30,172

Decrease..... 717 595

Number of girls...

..... 29,329 29,141

Decrease..... 340 569

Grand total no.

of days made by

pupils enrolled.. 325,773 438,116

Decrease..... 27,021 22,681

Average number

of pupils daily

present during

time schools

were in session.. 38,671 37,552

Increase..... 100 Decrease 1184

Average number

daily present for

fall term..... 37,019 34,873

Increase..... 232 Decrease 1185

Percent present daily

school session.. 67.23 63.31

Increase..... 1.39 Decrease .74

Percentage daily

present fall term

..... 64.36 58.79

Increase..... 1.56 Decrease .83

The statistics disclose the fact that

while there was an increase each year

from 1890 to 1899 in the number of

pupils enrolled in the public schools,

there has been since 1899 an annual

decrease. This backward tendency is to be

regretted and calls for explanation.

In my opinion the principal causes

which have brought about a result so unsatisfactory are the following:

1. The scarcity of teachers, especially

teachers of the higher classes. Many

schools have been closed for one or more

terms because of the difficulty of obtaining

teachers on the terms offered. This difficulty is experienced not only

in New Brunswick, but in every province

of the Dominion and to some extent

in the United States. The period from

1899 to the present has been a period

of marked business prosperity. Teachers

of both sexes have been able to find

more remunerative employment than the

Columbia and the North Western districts of our own Dominion, where teachers command much higher salaries than in this province. School trustees and ratepayers generally (especially those outside of cities and towns) have failed to recognize the changed conditions, and prefer to leave the schools closed or to employ the cheapest teachers rather than offer such salaries as would command the services of the best. There are in some parts of the province indications that the people are awakening to the necessity of providing better salaries for teachers; but under our present system of school districts the prospect of any marked improvement is not encouraging.

The numbers who take our Normal School course and receive licenses to teach would be amply sufficient to supply all our schools were we able to retain their services; but many of them remain in the school service but a very short time.

2. Another cause of the falling off in attendance is the frequent closing of schools by health officers on account of the prevalence of epidemic or contagious diseases. Epidemics of such fatal diseases as smallpox, diphtheria and scarletina have been, perhaps, of more frequent occurrence during the last four or five years than formerly; but whether such be the case or not it is clear that the better organization and more prompt action of boards of health have resulted in the closing of the schools much more frequently than in former years. Schools have occasionally been closed on account of the appearance in a community of one or more cases of the milder epidemic diseases of childhood, such as whooping cough, mumps, measles, etc. The decision as to the necessity of closing the school must, of course, in all cases rest with the local health officer; but it may not be out of place to suggest that before taking the extra measure of interrupting and seriously disorganizing the work of the schools, such exact enquiry should be made in regard to the facts as to render it clear that the public safety demands such a course.

3. A third cause for the falling off in the enrolment and attendance of pupils has been the neglect of parents to comply with the provisions of the Vaccination Acts of 1902 and 1903. Hundreds of children have thus been deprived of school privileges during the last two years. In many cases this parental neglect arises from simple indifference, in other cases from unwillingness to incur the trouble and expense of employing a medical practitioner, in some cases from exaggerated apprehensions as to the dangers incurred by the operation, and in a few cases from alleged conscientious scruples arising from peculiar religious views. It is unfortunately true that the obligation of sending their children to school rests so easily upon the conscience of not a few parents that the slightest excuse for neglecting their duty in this regard is not unwillingly availed of. If the responsibility of leaving their children without school privileges can by any pretext be shifted upon other shoulders they feel a sense of relief, with the additional luxury of having a grievance to nurse.

4. Another cause of diminished enrolment has been the changing of the age of entrance into the schools from five years as formerly to six years by the provision of the Schools Act 1900. This change coming at a time when active business conditions in the province tended to withdraw the older pupils from the schools at an earlier age than in periods when remunerative employment was not so easy to obtain, has still further limited the attendance at the schools, the school life having been practically shortened by at least one year.

In view of all the facts above stated, and others that could be adduced, the diminished enrolment of pupils in the public schools has really been less than might have been anticipated under the combined circumstances which have tended to obstruct progress in this direction.

The tables show that the enrolment in the cities and towns has varied but little for the last seven years. There is no doubt that in most of these cities and towns the population has materially increased during this time. The enrolment in the schools should have increased proportionally. A census of the children of school age would establish the sad fact that in every city and town there are

hundreds of children growing up in illiteracy under the shadow of our well equipped school buildings. Whatever may be the difficulties in the way of an effective enforcement of a rigid Compulsory Attendance Law in rural districts, I am convinced that such a law could be administered with excellent results in well organized towns and cities. It is principally a question of appointing competent officials to enforce the provisions of the law, and of incurring the necessary expenses of its administration.

Number and Class of Teachers Employed.

The total number of teachers employed during the year was 1858 for the first term and 1815 for the second term—classified as follows:

	First Term.	Males.	Females.
Grammar School Class...	25	2	
First Class Superior.....	49	5	
First Class.....	76	294	
Second Class.....	129	807	
Third Class.....	80	330	
Holding Local License...	3	35	
Class Room Assistants...	1	22	

363 1,485

SECOND TERM.

	Males.	Females.
Grammar School Class...	21	2
First Class Superior.....	48	3
First Class.....	77	307
Second Class.....	122	766
Third Class.....	77	317
Holding Local License...	3	54
Class Room Assistants...	3	25

341 1,474

It will be seen that of the total number of teachers employed less than 20 per cent. are men, less than 25 per cent. hold licenses above Class II., about 50 per cent. hold licenses of Class II., and about 25 per cent. hold the lowest class of license. Since 1900 the number of untrained teachers employed has increased from 21 to 57.

Disbursement of Provincial Grants.

The total provincial grants to schools of all grades for the year 1902-3 amounted to \$160,825.79, a decrease of \$1,401.40 on the disbursement of the previous year. The above does not include the sum of \$2,246.54 paid on account of New Brunswick pupils at the School for the Blind, Halifax, and the further sum of \$935, granted to repair or build school houses in poor districts.

The total expenditure during the year 1902-3 for the maintenance of the Grammar, Superior and Common Schools is approximately as follows:

District assessments (approximate).....	\$374,196.00
County fund.....	94,969.24
Provincial grants.....	160,825.79

Total..... \$629,991.03

Average amount per pupil enrolled about \$9.50.

The County Fund.

The total amount of the County fund for the year was \$97,215.78, disbursed as follows:

To trustees of public schools.....	\$94,969.24
School for the Blind, Halifax...	2,246.54
	\$97,215.78

The special fund apportioned to poor districts was \$5,001.52.

There were 50 Superior and 13 Grammar Schools in operation during the year. Twenty-two teachers received the provincial Grammar School grant.

What does it profit a woman if she gain the whole world of knowledge and lose her own health? Young women students and school teachers, eager, ambitious, and full of energy, very often neglect their health in the struggle to win education. They eat insufficient food, and at irregular hours, they allow irregularity of the womanly functions to be established, and the result is that they become chronic invalids with all their education practically worthless. There is a plain road back to health for such as these, marked by the feet of thousands. It is the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for diseases of the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs, and Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for diseases of the delicate organs of womanhood. A cure so certainly follows the use of these remedies that out of hundreds of thousands who have tried the treatment, ninety-eight in every hundred have been perfectly and permanently cured. Constipation, which is a calamitous consequence, which is a common ailment of students, can be entirely cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

The length of the world's railways is more than 17 times the circumference of the earth at the equator.

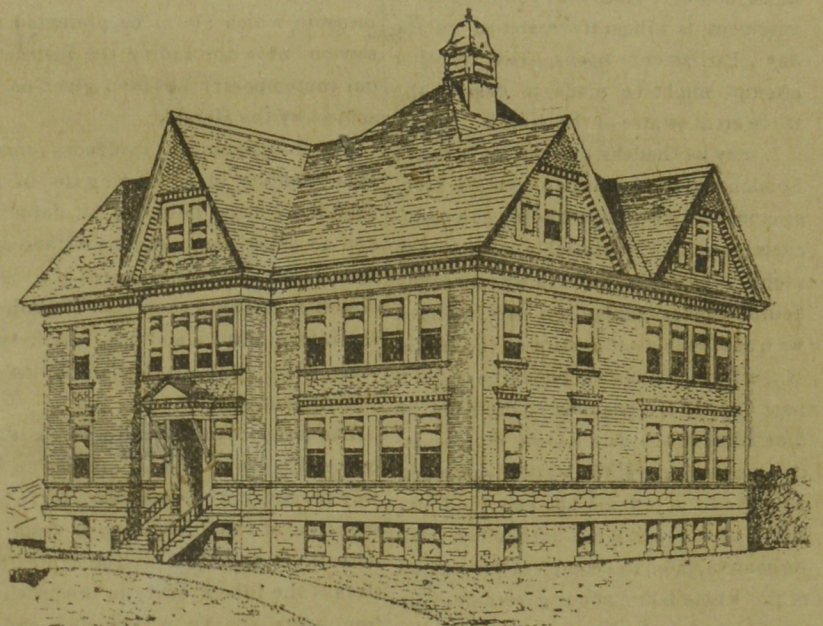
The building presents a handsome appearance. It occupies a commanding site, being that formerly occupied by the Kings County Court House, on the summit of the hill upon which Kingston is built. The building is of wood of two and a half stories, and a brick basement nine and a half feet high. The roof is steep pitched, terminating with ventilating torrets, and is shingled with creosote stained shingles. The walls are covered with clapboards and fancy cut shingles.

There are three schoolrooms of 26x33 feet, and a teachers' room on the ground

Meers. McKean & Dunn were the architects, and the contractor was Mr. J. L. Schiefer.

The total expenditure on the building, grounds and school vans to date is about \$16,000. A large stable or shed to protect the vans will be erected in the Spring. The complete plant when furnished and equipped will probably cost in the vicinity of \$20,000.

Seven vans will be required, costing about \$180 each delivered at Kingston. Two of these vans have already been forwarded, the others are in Ottawa awaiting orders to be shipped.



THE MACDONALD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL BUILDING AT KINGSTON, KINGS CO.

floor. One of these rooms is used for "manual training" and will be fitted up with the usual appliances for that purpose.

The second floor has three rooms of 26x33 feet, a laboratory and a principal's room, to be fitted up as a library, etc. One of the rooms on this floor will be used for teaching "household science" and will be fitted up for that purpose. In the halls of each of these two floors are cloak rooms made of wire, 6 1/2 feet high. The assembly hall, 80x27 feet, is on the third floor, and there is on the same floor a spare room over the household science room. The basement contains payrooms for wet weather, the hot-air furnaces and fuel. The janitor's room is in a separate building, the dry earth system being used.

The McDonald fund is chargeable with the entire cost of the building furnished and equipped, the entire cost of the vans delivered at Kingston, half the cost of conveying the children to the school, the cost of maintaining the school and paying the salaries of the teachers for three years—less the usual provincial grant to the teachers, the county fund grant, and a levy upon the united districts annually, equal to the average amount voted at the school meeting for school maintenance for the years 1899 to 1901 inclusive.

The gentleman appointed as principal of the school year is Mr. D. W. Hamilton, M. A., a graduate of the University of New Brunswick, and an experienced and successful teacher.

Missionary Killed.

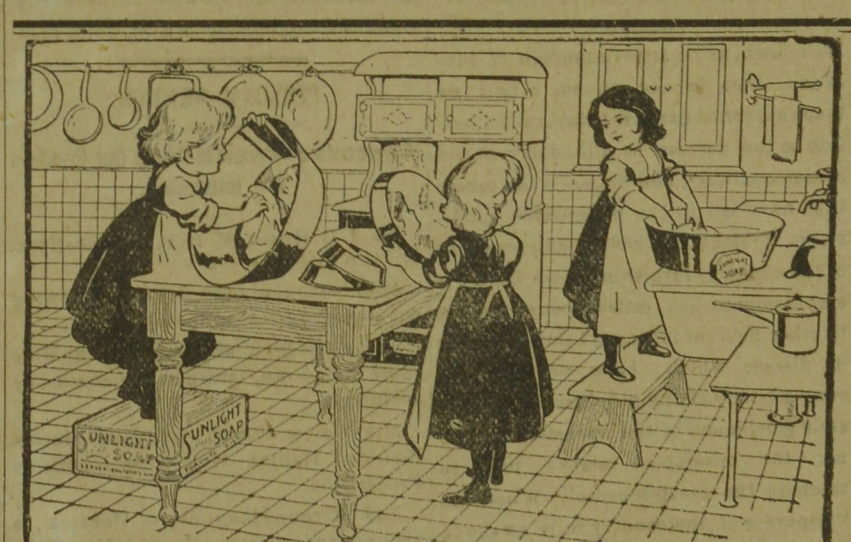
New York, March 12.—A cable despatch from Urmia, Persia, announces that Dr. Labarr, an American missionary has been killed.

The victim is believed to be the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Labarr, one of the best known Presbyterian missionaries in the Asiatic field, who has been stationed in Persia since 1869.

No report of his death has yet reached the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Dr. Labarr was nearly 80 years old, and had a son who assisted him in his work. They are natives of Massachusetts.

FOOLS USE WASHES AND SNUFFS.

Thinking perhaps they will cure catarrh—but no one ever heard of a genuine cure following such senseless treatments. There is just one prompt and thorough cure for catarrh and it is fragrant healing Catarrhzone which goes right to the root of the trouble. It destroys the germs, heals the inflamed membranes and cures any case no matter how obstinate or long standing. "I experimented for years with catarrh remedies but found Catarrhzone the most rational and satisfactory," writes W. J. MacEachern of Waterville. "It cured me for all time." For a cure use only Catarrhzone. Complete outfit, \$1.00 trial size 25c.



SUNLIGHT SOAP

Household utensils can be made to look as good as new by washing in a sunny solution of Sunlight Soap. They will shine and glitter thus helping to make the home bright and inviting.

Sunlight Soap means less than half the labor required in washing with common soap—and makes everything spotlessly clean.

Sunlight Soap is made of pure oils and fats, contains no ingredient injurious to the hands or clothing.

ASK FOR THE OCTAGON BAR

Sunlight Soap Washes the Clothes White and won't Injure the Hands

LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED, TORONTO

8a