

All Aboard for England.

The large delegation of Canadian school teachers to visit England during the present summer will find much to learn in the schools of the home land. In several respects the English schools are superior to our own. The boys and girls are well grounded in obedience to law, in Christian morals, in good behaviour and respect for order. These count for much in the education of future citizens. It is this absolute obedience, taught from the cradle, that has made the English nation the most law-abiding on the globe.

In the English elementary courses of study there are fewer subjects, and the children are more thoroughly grounded and are not pressed forward as quickly as with us. If our visiting teachers have their eyes and ears open they will notice much that is excellent in the training of the young that might be well imitated in our Canadian schools.

In English schools almost all the instruction is given orally. Very few text-books are used; and there is hardly such a thing known as a series of readers, on which we set much store on this side of the Atlantic. This oral instruction calls for preparation on the part of the teacher, the one thing that lends interest to school work and ensures discipline and respect on the part of the pupil.

In comparing English with American schools, Dr. James Gow, headmaster of Westminster school, London, recently made the statement that "American education lags far behind the standard reached in this country. The entrance to Harvard is not comparable with the entrance examinations to our own universities, and this imperfect education runs through the whole American scholastic world."

Much may be hoped for from the visit to England of many of our brightest teachers who go with the idea that there is much to learn if their minds are receptive and they are without prejudice. We are too accustomed to get our ideals and impressions from our neighbours to the south of us, and frequently to borrow what is defective as well as excellent from the schools of the United States. It will do our teachers good to come in contact with the teachers and the sturdy boys and girls of Great Britain, and to bring home with them some wholesome ideas of the schools of the motherland and some notion of the life of the people, the beauty of the country, its scenes of historical interest, and its flourishing industries and trade. This will be an education in itself.

Educational Reports—New Brunswick.

The report of New Brunswick schools for the year 1906-07 has been received. Chief Superintendent, Dr. Inch, reports that the educational history of the year has been one of progress. There has been an increase in the number of schools in operation; many school houses have been built, others have been renovated and enlarged, and much interest has been taken both by teachers and ratepayers in improving school conditions.

The total number of teachers employed was 1,894 for the first term and 1,874 for the second term. Of these, only 14 per cent. are men, and they are steadily decreasing. Less than one-fourth hold licenses above the second class. Since 1900 the number of untrained teachers employed has risen from 21 to 72. Salaries have been gradually advancing during the past few years. The increase in the government grant, beginning with July last, to those who have been for two years and upwards in the service, will add to the income of permanent teachers.

The proportion of pupils at school in New Brunswick is one to about five and a half of the population. The number at school for the first term was 58,316 and for the second term 59,551, with a percentage of daily attendance respectively of 68.07 and 63.98. The total number of pupil teachers at the provincial normal school for the year was 377, the largest in its history.

There are four consolidated schools in the province, located at Kingston, Riverside, Florenceville and Hampton. The aggregate enrolment in these is 700, and the total cost of each pupil, chargeable to the districts consolidated, is less than \$13.50. "There are many poor districts in the province," says Dr. Inch, "that pay for very inferior schools, open only part of the year, at a much higher rate per cent. on the assessable valuation."

Of the thirteen schools that have gardens attached to them, six are in King's County and four in Carleton County.

Dr. Inch gives a very interesting summary of the Federal Conference on education held in London last year. The reports of the Chancellor of the University, the Principal of the Normal School, the Inspectors of schools, and of other departments of educational work, make up an instructive volume. The illustrations showing the consolidated schools, and especially excellent full-page displays of various manual training schools throughout the province, are noteworthy features of the report.