

of my duties; and to teachers, trustees and other friends for the evidences of good-will manifested during my visitations.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. A. DOANE.

REV. A. S. HUNT, M. A.,
Superintendent of Education.

HALIFAX COUNTY.

HINKLE CONDON, Inspector.

SIR,—

In presenting this Annual Report, I shall, after referring you to the Statistical Tables, only call your attention to the most salient points in the Educational affairs of the County during the past year.

Sections.—Although Halifax County reports 139 School Sections, yet several of these are so altered in their educational conditions that they cannot, in justice, be reckoned as sections. For example, Goffe's Section, on the Guysboro' Road, is so reduced in numbers that it would be impossible to support a School, and the very few remaining children are accommodated in the Oldham School; Tuft's Cove is included in Dartmouth; Blind Bay and Shag Bay are formed into one; McHeffey Hill, in the Rural District, has been made a border section on Hants County. Eight other Sections, so far as the keeping of a school is concerned, are, for the present, practically extinct.

Montague, which has for some years, owing to the generous interest shown by the proprietors of the Gold Mine, supported a good school, with from 18 to 27 on the Register, is now unable to do so, and unless the mining should be resumed, this Section will also be dropped from the list.

This really leaves 127 as the number of the sections in Halifax County. I feel that justice demands this explanation, as it is quite bad enough to be obliged to report 22 Sections as being without school during any portion of the year, but to leave the impression that 34 were in a like destitute condition would be a discouraging picture not warranted by facts.

We have no changes in the boundaries of the sections, in the past year, although several rate-payers from Pitpizwick East and Spry Bay, petitioned the Commissioners to form them into separate Sections, urging in the first case, that they were at too great a distance from the school house; and in the other that the house was not in the centre, and the road bleak. So determined were they, in the latter case, to be set off as a separate section that, in spite of friendly remonstrance, they erected a school house, evidently thinking that this proceeding on their part would form a foregone conclusion in their favor. But the Commissioners refused their consent, taking their stand firmly on that clause of the law which says: "That it is earnestly hoped that each Board of Commissioners will exert its influence and authority to preserve, wherever practicable, such a number of inhabitants in each section as will enable either graded schools, or the closest possible approximation to them, to be sustained in all the more densely settled portions of the country. No mere preference in favor of one section or another, on the part of parents, should be allowed to interfere with the preservation of the proper bounds of sections. Such bounds should always be determined upon as will enable the people of all the sections