

Concerning the Payment of Expenses.

A Gloucester County, N. B., correspondent writes to the REVIEW complaining of the injustice of requiring teachers to attend courses of physical and military training at their own expense. He thinks the government should pay the expenses. The tone of our correspondent's letter scarcely warrants its publication in full. The government seems to be doing its part when it provides accommodation and instructors to carry on this work which has become a part of the educational policy of every province of the Dominion. The teachers themselves, with very few exceptions, have entered with enthusiasm into these plans for the improvement of themselves and their schools. When one considers that they are willing to devote a part of their vacation and of their small salaries to attendance at Summer Schools, physical training classes and other means for their improvement he is filled with hope that the education of the country is in the hands of a devoted band of teachers, whose self-sacrifice and independence of character make them willing to bear certain present deprivations in view of ensuring for them better chances of preferment and consequently better salaries in the future.

A Question of Promotion.

A correspondent in Lunenburg County, N. S., asks: "Is it wise to allow high school pupils who have not succeeded in obtaining the grade for which they tried at the Provincial Examinations to enter the grade higher the next school year?"

No answer can be given to this, that will suit all cases; only a knowledge of the capacity, temperament, health and capability of the pupil can decide. Of course where the examination shows that the pupil does not know the work of the lower grade, he or she is severely handicapped by promotion to a higher grade, and the work of that grade is hindered by one or more pupils so advanced unless the teacher or some other instructor can devote time to the assistance of the backward ones.

Our correspondent intimates that it is the custom to advance pupils who have failed in the examinations to attain a higher grade. Her experience proves that this is unwise. So it is, unless the judgment of the teachers of the grades in question decides that the pupil or pupils have ambition and the qualities to accomplish the larger task.

The N. B. Educational Institute.

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Educational Institute of New Brunswick was held at Fredericton, June 26, 27, 28. There was a large attendance of teachers, the enrolment exceeding four hundred.

Fredericton looked beautiful in its summer foliage and blossom, and the weather was all that could be desired.

The opening address of the president, Dr. W. S. Carter, Chief Superintendent of Education, was interesting and valuable from the practical nature of the topics discussed. He made a feeling reference to his predecessor in office, Dr. Inch; and the Institute, at a later session, as a token of their sympathy and appreciation, elected him a life member, and likewise tendered to him and ex-Supt. Dr. Crocket, the hearty greetings and good wishes of the members assembled. Dr. Carter regretted that the increased government aid to schools had not been met with greater local effort. Teachers are scarce in spite of the fact that over three hundred are graduated every year from the Normal School. A few local licenses have been issued. Speaking of the generous pensions awarded to teachers in this province, he hoped that a disability clause would be inserted in the Act, allowing a certain proportion to those compelled to retire because of disability. The Institute, at a later session, passed a resolution asking the government to add such a clause. But to secure this Dr. Carter thought that the teachers themselves should contribute. Reference was made to the new text books recently introduced and to the importance of having a flag—the Union Jack—floating from the school house on every fine day on which the school is in session. Compulsory attendance is admirably carried out in St. John, Moncton and Fredericton, but to improve educational conditions it should be enforced in our towns and villages. The school trustees of any district may now authorize medical inspection and the establishment of a school savings bank. Dr. Carter urged teachers to be careful in keeping their agreements to trustees. For breaches of faith, a teacher is liable to have his or her license suspended or cancelled.

Speaking of our needs, the Superintendent said that we should pay out more money to improve salaries and to secure better and more sanitary school houses. Our schoolrooms should be clean. They should have pictures in them. There should