

4th. Should the number of competitors for the preparation of such history exceed five, the committee shall have the liberty of selecting those who in their judgment are the best qualified for the preparation of the proposed history.

5th. The successful competitor shall be allowed the usual royalty of 10 p. c. on the retail price on all books sold. The unsuccessful competitors to be allowed \$200 each, provided it appears to the Committee that their manuscript possesses real merit.

6th. The retail price of the book not to exceed 50 cents.

7. At least four copies typewritten must be submitted for the consideration of the committee by each author.

8th. It is expected that the book shall not exceed 400 pages, octavo, long primer type.

9th. The committee shall have the right to choose a publisher of the said history, and to determine all the details of printing, binding, etc.

For the better conduct of the preliminary proceedings, Mr. William Patterson, M. A., Montreal, was appointed secretary of the committee.

The committee to whom reference is hereinbefore named is as follows:

Prince Edward Island—Dr. Anderson, Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown.

Nova Scotia—J. B. Calkin, M. A., Principal Normal school.

New Brunswick—G. U. Hay, Ph. B., Principal Victoria and Girls' High School, St. John.

Quebec—Benjamin Sulte, Dr. Robins, Principal McGill Normal school.

Ontario—W. S. Robertson, B. A., Principal St. Catherines College Institute.

Manitoba—D. MacIntyre, B. A., Inspector of schools for the City of Winnipeg.

North-West Territories—Charles Mair, Esq., Prince Albert, N. W. T.

British Columbia—Member of committee to be named by the Department of Education.

CHANGE OF TEACHERS.

The constant change of teachers going on from year to year in the country districts admonishes us that some regulation should be enacted to counteract it. Perhaps we might follow with advantage the example of Nova Scotia where there is now but one term in the year. If this plan were carried out in New Brunswick, a year's tenure of office would be secured to most teachers which would be a gain as compared with the present term's service in so many districts. There would not be the same temptation to pare the teacher's pay on account of the unequal length of the terms as at present.

The short tenure of office of so many country teachers is working incalculable injury to the schools. Teachers no sooner get satisfactorily to work, than others step in to take their places, and it often takes half a term before the work again resumes its former condition. Trustees are not always responsible for the frequent changes of teachers. The teachers themselves quite as often terminate the agreement as

the trustees. There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the strongest is the desire for a change. It is needless to say that these teachers are the ones not the most interested in their work. Again many districts, having the opportunity offered them, extend the summer vacation with the idea of saving a few dollars. As the teacher is to be the loser, if employment offers elsewhere at the beginning of the term, she cannot be blamed for making the change. Frequent change encourages the spirit of criticism on the part of ratepayers so disposed, and there are a few of these in every district. Some of our most conscientious teachers resign because they do not satisfy everybody and the two term system makes this but too easy to do.

AGREEMENTS.

A case of general interest to teachers has recently been decided in the Courts in Gloucester County. Miss Alexander was dismissed by the trustees at the end of the June term when by the terms of the agreement the contract did not expire until the end of the year. The trustees refused her admission to the school room. She entered an action and recovered the damages claimed.

An important incident in the suit was the fact that the agreement was not sealed. This does not appear to have invalidated it. Another matter of interest to many districts came up in the suit, *viz.*, that the trustees were in the habit of using the school room for other than school purposes. This causes the St. John *Telegraph* very justly and pointedly to remark that this should not be permitted.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Well, school work has begun again for another term, it is a pity we could not say a year at least. How many teachers have begun with new surroundings? Probably more than one half. How much energy will be wasted before each one has settled down to his new duties? That will never be known. Teachers do not differ from other human beings in inaptitude to take up readily the thread others have dropped. Hence the value of experience in a certain line of work, which is recognized everywhere, except, I was going to say, in the average country district.

Do not begin with finding fault with your predecessor. Fault there may be, but do not begin by looking for it at once. Remember that the long vacation has dulled somewhat the best of the pupils, and that it will take a few days for all to recover themselves in. Also remember that in addition to the pupils being new to you, you are new to the pupils.