

district school commissioners to promptly arrange for the absorption of small or weak sections into a central section, and to provide for the cost of the conveyance of distant children to the central school.

Such changes may be effected in two ways. (1) By the consolidation of a number of suitable school sections into one, which the District Board can now do without a majority vote of each section concerned. At the Annual Meeting the estimated cost of the conveyance of children for the whole year should be voted so as to be levied on the whole enlarged section. The preliminary work of securing the agreement of the leading men in each section to the union of the sections, on the condition of making certain provision for the conveyance of the children and of providing a good teacher and good school accommodations, will be the most difficult as well as the most important work to be done. The secretary of each District Board is the one who as a general rule is most likely to be able to make such arrangements. And without the tactful stimulation of such movements by the inspectors we cannot expect rapid progress.

(2) Sections, without merging their existence into one large consolidated section, can now arrange with a neighbouring section which has a good central school accommodation to have their children conveyed to school on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon. This latter method might be the safer until some experience is acquired.

For further information on the advantages and disadvantages of the consolidation of sections into large ones, see a portion of the valuable report of Superintendent Barrett, of Iowa, which is published on page 67, for the information of those interested.

SPECIAL STATISTICS.—The blank columns 148, 149 and 150 in the Register and Annual Returns are to be filled in *this* year as follows:

148 : The total number of pupils enrolled who can sing.

149 : The total number of pupils enrolled who have been taking lessons or can play on some musical instrument.

150 : The total number of pupils enrolled who have learned to swim to any extent.

These questions will be changed from year to year, and when the accuracy with which our teachers appear to be able to collect such information can be estimated, more important and complex information may be sought for in these three columns. Inspectors can note from the neglect to fill in these columns those teachers who habitually neglect to keep posted in the official intimations given in the JOURNAL. It is quite possible that we may have teachers who not only take no educational paper for which they may have to pay, but who do not go to the trouble, or do not see why they should make an effort, to acquaint themselves with the information sent them free at a very considerable expense to the province and of effort to very busy educational officers. There should not be one such teacher in the province; but if there is we must find him out. Each Inspector is instructed to withhold the public funds from any teacher or section presenting a defective return until the pleasure of the Council is indicated after an investigation.

EMPIRE DAY falls on the 23rd of May, when it is hoped teachers and school boards will make good use of the occasion to develop the sentiment of attachment to the Empire as a whole; and also to its constituent parts so as to stimulate reciprocity of good will and of helpful co-operation. Let us endeavour to make the boys and girls in the schools to-day what we wish the citizens of the Empire to be twenty years hence, and forever afterward. Report what is done to your inspector. See Regulation 141. The Soldiers' Monument on the Province Building grounds is expected to be unveiled, if possible, on this day.