

*St. Johns.*—A meeting of the St. Johns High School Board was held on Monday evening last, at which were present: Rev. J. F. Renaud, chairman; Messrs. R. C. Montgomeriè, W. Drumm, T. A. Cousins and E. R. Smith. The Principal of the School and the Secretary of the Board also assisted at the meeting. Several matters relating to the welfare of the institution were discussed and settled. Among other things, the course of study authorized by the Protestant Committee of the Council of Education was adopted by the Board. Fortunately, this course very closely resembles that in vogue in the school, so that no radical change will require to be made either in the lessons or text-books. Regarding the progress of the school, both the Principal and Chairman stated that the new graded system was working even better than was anticipated, to the great advantage of the pupils. Vocal music and drill are to be added to the curriculum.—*The News.*

*Gaspe.*—No. 1, Gaspé Bay School, under the new teacher, Miss Carter, has improved of late. This school, which was formerly one of the best in the county, had run down a good deal.

A successful entertainment was given in the school house in February for the purpose of raising a fund to buy maps, which are much needed.

Miss McNeil of No. 1, Port Daniel, and Miss McPherson, of No. 2, have been obliged, through illness, to give up teaching for a season.

An increasing difficulty in securing the services of qualified female teachers is much felt in the County of Gaspé. At present no fewer than five teachers, without diplomas, have charge of schools. It is simply a question of these or none. As a rule, these young women give a promise that at the expiration of six months, they will pre-ent themselves for examination; but the fulfilment of this promise is occasionally evaded, and how to enforce it is a difficulty to school commissioners. We need never expect to have a supply of qualified and trained teachers until a Protestant training school shall have been established. How, in the name of wonder, can we expect girls to teach, who have themselves never been taught to do so; who have themselves had no training worthy of the name?

The new course of study for elementary schools will, doubtless, prove valuable to even a moderately intelligent teacher, and will suggest many useful ideas. In the minds of some teachers it will probably awaken a sense of their own deficiencies, and will stimulate them to make an effort of self-improvement. Others will, I fear, get over it the best way they can. On the whole, it seems pitched rather high. I doubt whether one country teacher in ten, in these counties, would undertake to give an object lesson, for the simple reason that she has herself never received one.

I don't wish to disparage these excellent girls—they are, as a rule, zealous and trust-worthy, and have made a wonderfully good use of extremely limited opportunities. But I have reason to doubt their ability to deliver lectures on “things in general,” and their “true inwardness” as to *plants, motion, minerals and manufactured articles*, is a mystery which I would not care to unveil.