

The Past Year.

The year 1896 has been uneventful and progressive in as far as the schools of New Brunswick are concerned. Few changes have taken place in the regulations governing the schools. Text books remain about as last year. Many new school buildings have been begun, and some have been completed. In this respect, probably, the city of St. John takes the lead.

The Provincial Institute at Fredericton was well attended, and productive of much good. The County Institutes are reported to have exceeded in attendance and profit those of any former year.

The year has witnessed an earnest effort in the city of St. John to form a teachers' association for superannuation and mutual advancement. It has also brought about action to prevent the unprofessional habit of unbidding on the part of teachers. An increase in the amount granted to secondary education, is one of the tangible indications of progress, and the decision of more school boards to give recognition to the qualifications of first class teachers, is another. The demand for high class teachers has increased; due, probably, to the higher standard for license required.

The desire of some for uniform high school entrance examinations has, as yet, not been realized, differing conditions, in various localities, requiring due consideration, no doubt.

The year has been marked by the appointment of women to nearly all the school boards of the cities and towns. The business-like and intelligent manner in which these ladies have entered upon their duties argues well for the advancement of the schools in the future.

Uniformity in the university matriculation examinations has not been arrived at, and the representation to the senate, dependent upon the teachers, is still confined to graduates.

Many changes have taken place during the year among teachers and others engaged in school work. Chairman Weldon, of the St. John School Board, died at the beginning of the year. He was succeeded by Judge Barker, who held office but for a short time. He, in turn, has been succeeded by Judge Trueman.

There has been much encouragement in the contemplation of work well done, and also by some slight tokens of public appreciation for well directed effort. There are other features not so encouraging, but without difficulties success is not achieved.

"Enclosed please find one dollar in payment for my subscription to the REVIEW. I can truly say that I find your paper a valuable help, and if you continue to encourage the teachers to observe professional honor in their dealings, you will be doing a work that is much needed, and for which all right thinking teachers will honor you." G. A. W.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

I would like to begin the new year with a little talk to the teachers on the subject of greater unity and the necessity of making teaching more of a profession. Two decided steps were made during the year. In St. John, a few earnest men devoted a great deal of time and effort to propound a feasible scheme of superannuation and the development of professional spirit and knowledge among the teachers. It is to be deeply deplored that no tangible results have as yet resulted, but there is reason to believe that the labor expended has not been in vain. Much valuable information has been gathered and everything is in favorable posture for a revival of the movement. The failure to reach anything definite is due chiefly to the indifference of the teachers themselves, who surely should be interested more deeply in what so closely concerns their own interests.

Another step in advance was the action of the Charlotte County Institute in holding its members liable to censure for non professional conduct. This action meets with almost general approval, though it has been criticized in some quarters on the ground that tradesmen undercut one another. It may be so, but even in their case class papers and associations are educating them toward a better sentiment, and all other professions, save that of teaching, have long ago taken the matter in hand. Country districts are getting to regard a man or woman as worth about what he or she asks, and are suspicious of those who place small value upon their services. Let us begin the new year with a better professional feeling toward one another.

In the last connection let me relate two incidents. One teacher might have secured a good school by consenting to accept a lower salary. Refusing to do so he lost the place, and his successor is such that it is probable the trustees will not regard salary in the next case of vacancy which will no doubt occur soon. Another teacher thinking to make sure of a school applied fifty dollars lower than the former teacher. The secretary responded that the salary was fixed and they considered if the work were properly done it was worth what was offered. In the next application the young man made, he did not mention salary and secured the vacancy at fifty dollars in advance of what he asked. It remains to be seen whether or not he undervalued his services. I think the secretary and Board deserve medals.

Some of our teachers are receiving censure, and deservedly, for the manner in which they impart instruction in grammar. They find fault with the text-book when the fault lies with their own mechanical