

Nova Scotia Provincial Educational Association.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that a meeting of the Provincial Educational Association of Nova Scotia is called for next October at Truro. The last meeting was held at Halifax, December, 1890. Formerly the membership was supposed to be confined to members of the teaching profession. In this educational parliament, however, a special effort will be made to have representative lay members as well as professional. When educational topics are discussed from both standpoints, the conclusions will no doubt be of greater value and more generally acceptable. The course of study will either be modified to suit the people or they will be the better able to understand its effect and general tendency, and so be able to give more assistance and sympathy to teachers in their arduous labors.

The programme deals with the educational problems of to-day. The discussions will be looked forward to with more than ordinary interest, inasmuch as several important changes have been introduced into our educational system since the last meeting, and those who are to discuss them are exceptionally able men. In the meantime it would be well for our educationists to be studying the subjects of the programme if they are to command the respect of their new coadjutors, and to give and receive the greatest benefit that the meeting is capable of producing.

Some Matters Discussed by Quebec Inspectors.

At the request of the education department of Quebec, a conference of inspectors has been held at St. Hyacinthe, the results of which may be profitable to others. It would seem from the proceedings that salaries of teachers are much lower in Quebec than in the Maritime Provinces. Some of the wealthiest districts there paying not more than one hundred dollars per year. To remedy this state of affairs it has been almost unanimously recommended by the inspectors to fix a minimum salary for teachers, varying in accordance with the resources of the district and the license held by the teacher.

The inspectors deplore the employment of untrained teachers, of whom there seem to be a great number; the lack of uniformity in the instruction given in the schools, and the disinclination to give reliable statistics on the part of many districts receiving state aid.

They recommend that the inspector's first visit in the year be devoted to calling together and instructing the teachers of the municipalities in their work; that the number and efficiency of the normal schools be increased, and that more complete and accurate statistics be re-

quired from all schools receiving provincial assistance. They further recommend that special bonuses be given to teachers according to the class of their diploma, the report of the inspectors and their years of service, as a means of encouragement and of keeping in the profession a larger number of competent teachers.

The idea of a minimum salary seems to be a good one. The state regulates the amount each teacher shall receive according to fixed conditions. Why should the amount to be raised for school purposes by each district be also determined?

It is understood that the Board of Education in New Brunswick contemplates making a regulation that no district possessing property above a certain valuation can employ a third class teacher. It has not transpired what this valuation may be, but it should not be higher than that of a poor district. It might be well also to enact that a minimum salary be paid as is done now in the case of superior schools. There is no doubt but that it is implied in the Schools' Act, that teachers suitable to the needs of the district are to be employed; but there are always teachers of all classes willing to work cheaply.

The bonus system does not seem to be a good one. Would it not be preferable to substitute pension for bonus under the same conditions?

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Do you keep your pupils in at recess? I am afraid many of you do, but I would advise you not to do so. The objects of recess are fresh air and recreation. It may also be added, the getting rid of much surplus energy that might otherwise develop into a nuisance for the teacher. Many teachers do not seem to regard it in this way, but rather as a convenient time for studying ill prepared lessons or making its deprivation a punishment for some offence. You have no right to deprive a pupil of recess for either of these causes, and it is injurious both to them and yourself.

You require fresh air as well as your pupils, and they require your presence in the play ground; besides, it is the time for ventilating the room, which cannot be done if there are pupils sitting in their places.

There are some pupils who never seem inclined to leave the room at recess, and you are often instructed regarding this by notes from their parents. If the day be fine, and most days are fine, insist upon them going out. If they complain of illness, in most cases they would be much better outside than inside, and you can not keep the windows and doors closed for one or two pupils.