

the Newfoundland graduates leave the School fitted to earn their own livelihoods, the public in the sister Colony become more and more satisfied with the provision made by the Government for those who cannot take advantage of the general school system.

The Province of Prince Edward Island has now four pupils in the School. Heretofore it has made annual provision for defraying the expense of but one pupil, but we trust that the Government and Legislature will see to it that, in the matter of the free education of the blind, they are prepared to stand side by side with the sister provinces by proportionately increasing the annual grant to the same amount as that provided in the other provinces.

As will be seen by the Superintendent's report, the several departments of the school are in a most satisfactory state of efficiency, but while this is true, your Board realizes that it would not be discharging its full duty to those under its care were it not to recognize the difficulties experienced by both teachers and pupils in securing the best results. Were it not for the co-operative spirit which characterizes the whole school, the results would fall far short of those now attained: but these results, satisfactory though they be in a great measure, fall below the standard towards which we are reaching out. The majority of our pupils come to us between the ages of ten and fifteen years. Many of them, owing to the misguided kindness of their parents or guardians, or from sheer neglect, lack the energy and physical vigor which marks the ordinary child with sight. This necessitates careful supervision in order to give them the bodily health and strength so necessary to mental development, and hence much valuable time is lost before their education is really commenced. Under these circumstances, we purpose to seek legislation in the several provinces in order that the age at which the pupils are eligible for admission may be changed from the minimum of ten to six years. All true educationists will at once realize the great advantages that will result to the blind if this change be accomplished, while the school life of little blind children would be made happy and profitable within the walls of a kindergarten home.

After full consideration, your Board decided that the School should take another step in advance by providing non-musical pupils with such a training in modern languages as would fit them to become efficient teachers. This departure will, we believe, materially increase the percentage of our self-supporting graduates.

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