

the law be the universal education of the children of our land it is certainly defective, because it leaves a loop-hole through which every child can escape and run home with impunity and not one receive an education. If the purpose of the act be to give every one an opportunity to go to school if he choose then it is fulfilled.

The past has been a year more than usually fatal to our schools on account of illness. In almost every instance my visit was preceded by some prevailing epidemic, and in some registers the list of absentees was frightfully swelled with the mumps.

Still another hindrance to success is the remissness of many of the Trustees. The Register betrays much indifference on the part of these officials. The record of visitation in many instances being utterly blank. A partial remedy for this state of affairs is in the hands of the ratepayers at each annual meeting when the greatest care and discrimination should be exercised in filling the vacancies. An amendment of the School Law making the public funds contingent upon the proper performance of the duties of the Trustees would straighten things up wonderfully. Doubtless the *B* Returns would then come in correct and satisfactory. As they are now filled in and forwarded, the statistics compiled therefrom must be far from reliable. In many instances the most important questions are unanswered, causing much unnecessary annoyance. If the Trustees cannot give exact answers, an approximation can be made by them better than by the Inspector. If they are unable to guess, I can do nothing for them. The practice of medicine might improve that faculty somewhat.

The *A* Returns are generally correctly filled in.

The Teachers generally during the past year, have devoted themselves to their work with a zeal and intelligence deserving of much commendation. My preference to Normal school teachers, and my reasons therefore, I dwelt upon in my last report. I have since seen nothing to change my opinion.

In the resignation of Mr. McVicar, the County Academy has sustained a loss which I trust may be compensated by his successor, Mr. Smith, whose labors in other sections have hitherto been highly appreciated.

This High School, as I purpose calling it, has maintained its wonted high prestige, and will compare favorably with any in the Province. The various departments are thoroughly and efficiently taught by a staff of well-trained, active and zealous teachers, leaving little more to be desired or necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose for which it was established. It is with regret that I have to report the resignation of Mr. J. H. McKittrick, who conducted the Primary Department of this Institution for the past two years with unquestioned ability and unrivalled success.

The Graded School at Mill Village is still conducted by Chas. D. Mack with his usual thoroughness, efficiency, and success. The ratepayers of this section are certainly alive to their own interests in retaining the services of so capable and experienced a teacher. His calling is not a stepping-stone to some other profession, but a devoted life-study—hence his success.

Mr. Chas. Richardson still continues to teach the Brooklyn School in his own even methodical and pains-taking manner in spite of the salary, which is entirely inadequate to the support and encouragement of such teachers.

The Milton School has been taught during the past year by Mr. Eben C. Hilton, a faithful and efficient teacher, whose services have been freely acknowledged and fully appreciated by the section. He is succeeded by Mr. George Cleveland whose reputation as a teacher warrant the expectation of continued good results. The miscellaneous schools generally have been taught by active, energetic and high-toned teachers who rarely fail to leave an intellectual reprint of their own minds upon the characters, dispositions and habits of their pupils.