The experiment of introducing camels into South Africa seems to be succeeding, though some parts of the country are believed to be too cold and damp for them.

The new system of signaling under water, in which the water itself transmits the sound of a bell, has been successfully tried at the entrance of Boston harbor. Receivers are placed on both sides of a vessel's hull. These receive vibrations from the distant bell hanging in the water; and the navigator has only to put the ear-piece to his ear and ascertain on which side the vibrations are the louder in order to know the direction of the lightship or other station from which the sounds proceed.

The photophone, as its name suggests, is an instrument for transmitting sounds by means of light. In principle, it depends upon the curious property of selenium, well known to students, of changing its electric resistance under the influence of light. Slight variations in the intensity of light which cannot otherwise be easily detected will so act upon the selenium plate in the receiver as to give audible sounds in the receiving instrument, and a message transmitted in this way can be kept secret, which does not hold true in the ordinary wireless telegraphy. The new system will probably be adopted for military use.

Manual Training.

The annual report of Dr. A. H. MacKay, Superintendent of Education, for the year ending July 31, 1903, has just been issued. It is interesting to note from it the growth of manual training in Nova Scotia. The total number of public schools was fifteen. To this may be added the public institutions, such as St. Patrick's Home, Protestant Industrial School, Deaf and Dumb Institution, St. Francis Xavier's College, Horton Collegiate School, and others not directly connected with the public schools. In the fifteen schools enumerated, however, were enrolled 1,815 pupils, 568 more than in 1902. In 1903, 1,467 girls received instruction in domestic science, an increase of 439 over 1902.

The number of benches increased from 154 in 1902 to 299 in 1903. The value of the equipment was doubled, being in 1903 $10,010.00, as against $5,031.50 in 1902. The amount paid in salaries to mechanic science teachers was $4,245 in 1902, and $8,495 in 1903. The cost of maintaining the schools was borne by the towns and the government, the former paying in 1903 $4,223.10, and the latter paying in the same year $4,677.95. In 1902 the amounts paid were $1.423.24 and $3,525.30 respectively. This shows that the towns are assuming a fairer share of the expense than heretofore.

The total number of pupils attending the public schools of Nova Scotia in 1903 was 98,768. From Grade VI up to Grade XI included 28,878 pupils, 3,282 of whom received regular instruction in mechanic science or domestic science. This is an excellent showing, considering the short time these schools have been in operation.

Last month an appreciative article telling of the success attending the work of Mr. E. H. Blois at the Industrial School, Halifax, appeared in the Halifax *Herald*. It is interesting to notice the effect of manual training on boys who are presumably indifferent in regard to education. Br. Blois teaches both manual training and the ordinary school subjects. It has been found that manual training has enabled the teacher to get in closer sympathy with the boys, and thus enable him to exert a greater influence for good among them. The boys are far below the average in ordinary school work, but grasp readily the idea of manual training, and quickly acquire skill in that branch. Some excellent work was on exhibition at the Provincial Exhibition last year. Here, then, is a case where manual training fills a place nothing else would fit into. The directors of the school are so impressed with the value of manual training in the Industrial School that they have ordered five new benches, with a corresponding outfit for the school.

The same excellent results are apparent at St. Patrick's Home, where Bro. Remegius is doing a similar work.

The manual training department at Annapolis was opened for work last month. Mr. Gerald A Boak, late of the Macdonald Manual Training School at Truro, is in charge of the department, which is well equipped. Mr. Boak, it is expected, will in the near future have the combined charge of manual training schools at Digby and Bridgetown, in addition to Annapolis. Annapolis makes the twentieth mechanic science department in Nova Scotia.

The consolidated school at Middleton was formally opened on Monday, February 1st. Both domestic and mechanic science are to be taught in the school. It is expected that the mechanic science teacher will be appointed this month and the department opened soon after. The domestic science department will be opened at the beginning of the new school year. The mechanic science room is well lighted, and having been designed by Mr. Leslie R. Fairn, who, up to a short time ago, was a manual training teacher, has all the improvements his experience suggested.

The circulating magazine has, after an absence of five months, again reached the hands of the secretary. It will, in the course of a few days, be sent to the members of the association who have recently joined. It is to be hoped that all will be ready to add to the excellent list of articles when it reaches them.

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