

3. Local assessment.

The difficulty issuing in the suit above referred to originated in refusal on the part of the municipality of Dartmouth to assess itself for its proportion of the county fund for the city of Halifax, claiming exemption through the peculiar wording of its incorporating Act. The suit had been pending for some years, and, having engaged the attention of the leading members of the provincial bar, was regarded as involving important principles in its decision. The Court rendered a unanimous decision affirming the liability of the town of Dartmouth and upholding the educational law in its integrity.

One of the fine educational structures of the town of Yarmouth was destroyed by fire on the 21st ult. It is deplorable to be forced to believe that the only explanation offered is incendiarism. The edifice burnt cost upwards of \$10,000, and provided excellent accommodation for a school of six departments, with two hundred pupils.

The Legislative Council, partly perhaps through lack of political measures for discussion, devoted two or three sessions recently to a consideration of educational questions. A solitary attempt to rehabilitate the skeleton of the old voluntary system, or no-system, was received with conspicuous coldness. Whether in other matters or not, in this the Legislative Council fairly represents the progressive sentiments of the people at large.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The annual report of the Chief Superintendent, laid before the Legislature early in March, contains the following statistics relating to the year ending April 30th, 1879:

Number of children at school during the year, 70,889, increase 2,664. The proportion of the entire population of the Province enrolled at school the summer term was 1 in 5.11. The counties in which the proportion was largest were Madawaska (4.35) and Westmorland (4.44). In the winter term, the counties of Carlton (1 in 4.02) and Westmorland stood highest in respect to the proportion of the population at school.

The percentage of enrolled pupils daily present on an average during the period the several schools were in session, was for the Province 55.08 per cent. in the summer term, and 57.49 per cent. in the winter term. The counties of St. John and Madawaska stood highest in this respect in the summer; and St. John (62.96 per cent.) and Albert (59.19 per cent.) in the winter.

During the winter term there were 1345 teachers and assistants employed (increase 47), 548 of these being men, and 800 women; 1077 were trained and 258 untrained. The classification of teachers was as follows:

	Gram. Sch.	I.	II.	III.
Male.....	14	134	200	198.
Female.....		123	341	320.

The steady advance in respect of the length of time the schools are kept open during the year is mentioned as a fact of much moment. The actual number of legal teaching days during the year was 226, and the average time of keeping the school open, exclusive of holidays, vacations and Sundays, was 211.30 days, which was "5.30 days in excess of the average time reached by the schools of Ontario in 1878."

Three hundred and twenty-five persons were admitted to examination for Provincial Licenses during the year, 244 of them by virtue of being student-teachers at the Normal School, 311 obtained licenses of some class.

The whole number of different pupils in attendance at the schools of the Province for some portion of the school year ended October 31, 1879, was 71,764, or 1 in 3.56 of the population by the last census.

Speaking on the subject of county institutes, the report says, "There is much talent in the profession, and every annual meeting of these institutes may be made of increasing interest and profit, if the several Committees of Management are careful to provide practical subjects for discussion, and to seek out those teachers in the county whose ability and experience best fit them to lead in the discussion of any particular subject, or to exemplify correct methods in any particular department of school work."

In relation to Grammar School Grants, the Chief Superintendent speaks as follows: "I think the time has fully come when encouragement should be given to *High School work in whatever district it is performed, and in proportion to the character and extent of the work done.* This is the principle which has been adopted for

the disbursement of the superior allowance of \$7,000. There is no good reason why the High Schools of St. Stephen, Milltown, Newcastle, Moncton, Portland, and the Girls' High School in St. John, should not receive a portion of the money annually applied in aid of secondary education. Their claims are as good as, and even superior to, those of most of the 'Grammar Schools.' In fact, the Grammar School Grants should be thrown open to any and all districts. This would, I am certain, secure more completely the object of the Grant, the encouragement of secondary education. I would, therefore, recommend that on and after November 1st next, any district in the Province be allowed to participate in the Grammar School Grants, according to the number of pupils annually certified as having successfully passed examination in any of the standards that may be prescribed for high school classes by the Board of Education. It should also be provided that any property now owned by the Grammar School Boards should vest in the Boards of School Trustees of the districts in which it lies.

The complete list of the medals offered by His Excellency the Governor General to the Educational Institutions of New Brunswick is as follows:

- The University of New Brunswick—A gold and a silver medal.
- Mt. Allison Wesleyan College—A silver and a bronze medal.
- Saint Joseph's College—A silver and a bronze medal.
- The Provincial Normal School—Two silver medals.
- The Girls' High School, St. John—A silver medal.
- The Provincial Model School—A bronze medal.
- The High School, Fredericton—A bronze medal.
- The Grammar School, St. John—A bronze medal.
- The High School, St. Stephen—A bronze medal.
- The High School, Woodstock—A bronze medal.
- The High School, Chatham—A bronze medal.
- The High School, Newcastle—A bronze medal.
- The High School, Moncton—A bronze medal.

At the closing examination of the Normal School, on the 12th of March, there were present: His Honor the Lieut. Governor, the Chief Superintendent and several other members of the Board of Education, members of the legislature and numerous other visitors. Classes were examined in Reading and Elocution, Geography, Music, Natural Philosophy, English Literature, Natural Sciences, etc., as well as in relation to the principles of Method as applied to certain branches. There were also illustrative lessons given by ten of the student teachers, either in the model departments or in their own school rooms to classes of their fellow-students. Criticisms upon several of these lessons were given by some of the student teachers, who had been observers, and the Principal commented upon these as occasion required. The work was of a highly satisfactory character, and His Honor expressed himself as much pleased with what he had witnessed.

Miss Ellen M. Freeman, formerly of Canning, N. S., is the fortunate recipient of the first silver medal awarded at the Provincial Normal School. The medal itself had not been received at the time of the Terminal Examination; but the name of the successful competitor (if that term is appropriate where there is no active competition on the part of particular students) was announced by the Principal to the assembled students in high terms of commendation.

At the March Examination for License, there were 170 candidates, of whom five worked for the Grammar School Class, 14 for First Class, 128 for Second Class, and 23 for Third Class. About 135 of these were in attendance at the Normal School the past session, the remainder were chiefly licensed teachers, seeking advance of Class. Sixteen of the student teachers examined were already holders of Provincial Licenses, and over fifty of them had previous experience in teaching.

In consequence of the partial destruction of the Legislative buildings, by fire, on the night of the 25th February, the Government was obliged to look about for a place in which the Session of the Legislature could be held. For some reason or other, the Provincial Normal School Building was selected, and at once a change came over the edifice dedicated to Education. Fortunately the Normal School Term was nearly at an end. The Government took possession of the large Assembly Hall, the Principal's Class Room and Private Room, the Library, Laboratory and Reception Room, and a host of workmen speedily converted these into a Hall for the Legislative Assembly, a Council Chamber, Rooms for Committees, Clerks, Telephone, etc., while the Speaker's Room and telegraph offices were fitted up in the long corridor. On the 9th of March the usual ceremonies of opening the Session took place in Assembly