

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Some New Brunswick teachers seem to be in doubt as to what new text books are to be used and what privileges are allowed in the case of some of the old ones. A circular was sent to nearly every teacher last year concerning these changes, but its provisions seem in some cases to have been forgotten. I will mention some of the changes that have been made, especially those that concern miscellaneous schools.

There has been no change made in the Readers. A change in that direction may be contemplated, but no doubt due notice will be given of the same. Hamblin Smith's Arithmetic has been prescribed instead of Sangster's, not Hall's. Hall's Arithmetic is still the work to the end of Grade V. in mixed schools. I think many teachers allow the use of Hamblin Smith's before the work in Hall's has been completed. Meiklejohn's Short Grammar and Composition may be substituted for Robertson's Grammar and Dalglish's Composition, but both Grammars may not be used in the same class. Some teachers seem to be of the opinion that after 1893 Robertson's must not be used. This is not the case. It must also be understood that Dalglish's Composition must not be used with Meiklejohn's Grammar. The Public School Drawing Course, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, instead of Prang's Series. The Practical Speller may be used instead of Manning's Speller, but both may not be used in the same class. For High Schools it may be added that Williams' Chemistry has been substituted for Elliot & Storer's, and Spotton's Botany for Gray's.

The course of instruction has not yet been adapted to these new texts, but in most cases it will not be found difficult to reconcile it with them. Teachers seem to have the most difficulty in fitting the new Grammar to it. It will be noticed that Collin's Dictionary is no longer prescribed, but any may be used. It must be borne in mind by teachers that while Temperance teaching was formerly prescribed by the Board of Education, it is now enacted by the House of Assembly, and any teacher failing to give instruction in that subject runs the risk of losing his government money. In the list of teachers' text books on Temperance, Dr. B. W. Richardson's Temperance Lesson Book but no other is mentioned as allowable.

The school meetings seem to have passed off quietly and no doubt many teachers have as usual taken advantage of it to visit their homes, losing the Friday of the week as well, and making it up some Saturday. Much time, while not actually lost in this way, is to a certain extent wasted, because a Saturday school is

seldom a satisfactory one. Why could not the day of school meeting be changed to Friday? Would it not be a good plan for our Educational Institutes to make some representation in the matter.

No doubt many disaffected trustees have taken the opportunity as usual to resign at the school meeting, thinking that all that may be necessary to get clear of it. A trustee can not resign his office except with the consent of his co-trustees and the Inspector. In cities where the regulation should be understood at least, resignations are being constantly sent to the Councils and accepted as legal.

Teachers' Associations.

ANNAPOLIS AND DIGBY COUNTIES.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Teachers' Association for District No. 4 was held at Bear River on October 12th and 13th.

The first session was called to order at 11 a. m. by L. S. Morse, Inspector for the district. After the reading of the minutes of the previous year, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers. The following were appointed: Vice-President, W. M. McVicar; Secretary-Treasurer, O. P. Goucher; Executive Committee, I. M. Longley, Helen M. Vidito, Emma J. Bacon and S. C. Shaffner.

Mr. Ralph Messenger, Principal of the Freeport School, read a paper on "Economy of Forces." He led off by showing what the object of true teaching should be, considering its aims under three headings: (1) concentration of attention; (2) independent thought on the part of the pupil; (3) the development of proper expression. The line of thought was carried along connectedly and suggestively, the writer's aim being to show how the best results could be brought about with the least expenditure of force. Dr. Hall spoke in commendation of the paper — was opposed to the duplication of work. G. B. McGill alluded to the "economy of forces" outside of the schoolroom. I. M. Longley referred to the paper as the production of life and a successful teacher.

The second session was opened by the reading of a paper by Miss Mabelle Fash, "The Teacher out of School." This was a carefully prepared paper. It dealt with the preservation of the teacher's health, preparation of school work, the demands of society, and his teaching by example as well as precept. I. M. Longley, in speaking on this paper, considered the responsible position of the teacher in dealing with immortal natures.

"Young Teachers' Difficulties" was treated by Mr. McLeod. The gist of this paper was that teachers' difficulties arise from inexperience in management