

attendance of five hundred pupils. All the modern improvements have been introduced as far as has been found practicable.

The other schools of the city are arranged in temporary buildings, in groups which correspond to two other graded schools; so that when the proper buildings are erected, there will be in the city altogether three graded schools attended by about twelve hundred children. The Trustees have already ordered the preparation of plans for a new building towards the western part of the city, where they have purchased a site. The building is expected to be ready next summer.

The Christian Brothers have retired from Charlottetown, and it is rumoured that the Bishop intends to make arrangements to have St. Patrick's School opened as one of the city public schools. In this way another fine school building may be placed at the disposal of the Board.

A new graded school has been opened at Georgetown, with every prospect of success.

Mr. Frederick Allison, formerly of the Victoria School, St. John, has been obliged to resign his position as Head Master of the Model School, Charlottetown, on account of ill health. He is an excellent teacher, and his departure from the Island is a cause of much regret.

The schools in Summerside have been reorganized. It is proposed to build a new school building in that town, to accommodate four hundred children.

Steps are being taken to associate the Prince of Wales College with the University of Halifax.

The death of Mr. Hunt, Superintendent of Education, Nova Scotia, was deeply felt by his friends on the Island.

MANITOBA.

The question of authorized text-books has been rather unsatisfactory so far. It seems there was an understanding in the Protestant section of the Board that the use of those authorized in Ontario was to be sanctioned, and arrangements were made with one of the leading booksellers to have such supplied at Ontario prices. But over a year ago a committee was appointed to prepare a list of books for teachers and schools. They began energetically and prepared a list for teachers, which was, however, so mercilessly assailed on its publication that they seem to have lost heart, and given no further attention to the matter. Meanwhile the Winnipeg schools have been introducing works before unknown in the Province, and other schools seem disposed to follow. The distance from large publishing houses makes booksellers somewhat chary of large orders, and schools are often several weeks at the disadvantage of not having an adequate supply of books. It is not easy for either teacher or trustees to estimate the number needed. Those in most general use are the Ontario series of Readers, Lovell's Geographies, Hamblin Smith's Arithmetic, Stoddard's Intellectual Arithmetic, Loudon's Algebra for Beginners, Morris' Primer of English Grammar and Morell's Larger Grammar, Edith Thompson's English History, Quackenbush's Composition and Macmillan's Primers in Physiology, Botany and some other subjects.

The Provincial Superintendent complains of irregular attendance in the rural districts. The need of a compulsory law is felt. While such a law would, no doubt, have a good effect, matters cannot mend very much so long as the present sparsity of settlement continues. The land policy for the North-west has been so liberal that every one owns a rancho; and in consequence school sections are not so readily organized nor so easily supported as in denser communities. The system of survey, too, though admissible from a mathematical point of view, is such that pupils, instead of converging to common lines on their road to school, will often have to follow long and lonely tracks to homes at all points of the compass.

Several prominent educationists are in favor of having a Provincial Teachers' Association established, but while nearly all express the utmost readiness to assist others in making it a success, those upon whom the work would naturally fall are unwilling to take the initiative. The inconveniences of travel and the distance of many of the teachers from Winnipeg would make the attendance of some of them at any convention, a matter of great difficulty. However, it is not improbable that an Association will be organized before long.

The new Senate of the new University has made considerable progress in work. The Committee on curriculum have already agreed on the pass B.A. course. The examinations recommended for this course are the "previous" and "final," the others to be

certified by some of the affiliated Colleges. It is probable that distinct examinations will be held in the departments of History and Philosophy, as the diversity of traditions of English and French Universities is such that agreement on such troublesome subjects is not to be expected between Catholic French on the one hand and Protestant English on the other. The University charter provides that candidates for degrees "shall have the benefit of the opinions of authors in Mental and Moral Philosophy and History, which authors they may have studied during their course of education." The Committee have agreed to a common examination on all other subjects.

There has been a great lull of late in the "non-sectarian schools" controversy.

The Unitary Method of teaching Arithmetic, which was introduced into the Winnipeg Public Schools some time ago, has met with such general favor that it will likely soon be used in the Colleges. The Bishop of Rupert's Land, Warden of St. John's College, is inquiring into its merits, with a view to its adoption.

The Presbytery of Manitoba complain of the proposal of the Dominion Government to diminish the grant to their Indian Mission School at Roseau River.

It does not appear that any important amendments to the School Law will be brought before the Legislature this year. That body seems anxious to keep clear of such a troublesome matter until after the general election next year.

Departmental Notices.

MEMORANDUM AS TO UNION SCHOOL SECTIONS.

1. Union School Sections, strictly speaking, are such as are composed of (1) parts of one or more townships, or (2) parts of one or more townships and an adjoining town or incorporated village.

2. The amended School Act of 1877 (40 Vic. cap. 16, sec. 11) contains special provisions for the formation and also for the dissolution of such Union School Sections. These provisions came into effect on the 2nd day of March, 1877. The Act also confirms such unions as on that day existed *de facto*, and whether *de jure* or not. In my opinion, to constitute an existence *de facto* there must have been an acquiescence in an intended union on the part of all persons affected thereby, and that a union *de facto* cannot be said to have existed when such was definitely objected to, or actively resisted.

3. The provisions of the Amended Act are sufficiently specific as to the formation and dissolution of new unions established since the 2nd March, 1877, and do not, therefore, require any further interpolation unless difficulties should occur in the practical operation.

Several questions have, however, been raised as to the application of different provisions of the Amended Act and of the Act of 1874, to unions which were in existence on the 2nd March, 1877, and these are: (1) as to any alteration of the then existing boundaries of any Union School section; (2), as to mode of dissolving; (3), as to equalizing assessments.

1. As to alterations.—An alteration involves the withdrawal from, or the addition to, one of the sections, constituting the union of any area, and this can only be legally effected by the by-law of the council of the particular municipality in which the section of the union sought to be added to or diminished is situate; but while it is discretionary with such municipal council to pass a by-law, it can only legally do so upon the petition of the majority of all the freeholders and householders of the whole section of the municipality comprised in the union. Any by-law must be in conformity with what is petitioned for by this majority, and the municipal council has no authority to do more than to pass a by-law in accordance with the petition or in their discretion to refuse to do so. The sections of the other municipalities which also constitute the union, may, through their respective municipal councils, agree or disagree with the terms upon which the municipal council of the section proposed to be altered offers to enter into with the other sections. In case of disagreement in this respect, the reference provided for by sub-section 3 of section 11 of the Act of 1877 must be resorted to.

2. As to dissolutions.—A dissolution can be only legally effected by the like proceedings, as in case of an alteration. The petition of the majority of the freeholders and householders of any one of the sections comprising the union must be for a dissolution, and the by-law of the council of the municipality in which the section is situate is requisite to give effect to the petition. The terms upon which the dissolution is to take place, in case the sections represented by their respective municipal councils disagree, are to be settled by the reference provided by the Act; but while in the case of "an alteration," it may take effect at any time prescribed by the by-law in that behalf, the by-law in case of "a dissolution" must be passed three months before the first day of January, when the dissolution is to take effect.

3. As to equalization of assessments.—This is one of the few provi-