

is believed to be sufficient at present by many, all doubt should be removed by authorizing the inspector to require School Boards to provide such a class of teacher as the needs of the district require, with the right of appeal to the Chief Superintendent. Such an alteration will work no hardship, but a great deal of benefit to the schools.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Owing to the number of difficulties that have arisen over the clause in the contract relating to its extension from year to year, failing notice at other specified times, the question has come up whether or not it might not be expedient to change it so that notice might be given by either party one month before the end of each school term.

I am sorry to say that the consideration of this change has been caused chiefly by the action of teachers in a variety of cases.

Some teachers have taken advantage of the contract and the ignorance of its provisions on the part of trustees in every conceivable way, and have used it to thrust their services upon an unwilling district. On the other hand, taking advantage of their irresponsibility as to property, they have violated its provisions in a number of cases, and left the district if a better opening offered. Again, owing to some informality in the notice, they have retained their places, sometimes by threatening legal proceedings, and in a few cases by actually taking them.

It may be said, on the other hand, that the present wording of the contract has had the effect of giving greater permanency to the teachers in country districts, and has prevented many notional trustees from making changes just for the sake of a change or experiment, and perhaps with a view to greater economy.

I regret to notice in the matter noted that the burthen of complaint is made regarding the action of teachers, though it may be possible that the other side has not been fully reported.

A contract is all very well in its way, but there are many things implied as well as expressed, one of which may be stated: A teacher should be an honorable man or woman. This is due to their profession, as well as to the public. That a great majority of them are goes without saying; that a few of them are not, is equally obvious from reports that come in.

What kind of a man or woman is it who will persist in remaining in a district with any noticeable public sentiment against him or her?

Some teachers are so sensitive on this point that they refuse to remain for fear there may be some hidden

feeling against them. This is erring in the opposite direction. Is a man fit to remain in a district who will knowingly take advantage of any of the terms of a contract? Is he a suitable person to hold a license? I am confident that if any case of a teacher leaving a district while still under contract were reported to the Education Office, that that teacher's government money would be withheld.

My own impression is that the contract is best as it is, but that more cognizance should be taken of any infringement of its provisions, especially on the part of teachers.

An instance, or a number of them, may be given of teachers giving notice to terminate the contract to avoid receiving the like, and when it was too late for the other party to take action, to withdraw the notice. Such procedure is only useful to show the dishonesty of the teacher, as every one should know that a notice once given cannot be recalled except with the consent of the other party.

Look carefully into your registers, if new ones, or watch for the official notices in the REVIEW for changes in the course of instruction. There are two that I have heard of—Kennedy & O'Hearn's Arithmetic, three parts; supersedes Hall's. If I remember correctly, Part II. is devoted to Grades V. and VI., and Part III. to Grades VII. and VIII. Part I. has been in use for a year.

The Dominion Canadian History (Clement) has been prescribed, and, you will notice, adapted to the requirements of the different grades.

The changes in both texts go into effect at the beginning of the present term.

Such Arbor Day reports as these have a familiar sound: "Arbor Day was observed in this district by the planting of trees;" "Arbor Day was observed according to regulation in this district."

It is needless to remark that such reports were not noticed. Some teachers failed to report at all, although a very excellent day's work was done. This is scarcely just to any teachers depending on the principal's report for recognition. There is a strong suspicion that the roll was called and a report made in addition in a few schools. Inquiry will be made, and it will be, I imagine, somewhat uncomfortable for any teacher found having done so, as it has the effect of two days instead of one.

I understand that some of the inspectors threaten not to receive any Arbor Day reports after the time specified by regulation. If they come straggling in at all times it greatly adds to the risk of losing them.