

from which to make their selection. Under the present arrangement the validity of each license is confined within the limits of the District in which it is obtained, so that by stepping over a line, and in the majority of cases without leaving the county, a teacher, though it may be, many times examined, and as often licensed, finds himself without the requisite authority to conduct a public school. If he should, under such conditions, accept the charge of a school, he does so entirely on risk, and after months of diligent and arduous labour, he may find himself debarred from all participation in the public funds. Nor is this only a possible case. At the last semi-annual distribution in one District, three of the fourteen teachers employed during the term, were necessarily cut off from public aid because, though regularly certificated, their licenses had been obtained in another District. It is obvious that such an arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

I beg, therefore, to suggest, for the consideration of the Legislature, whether it would not be wise to empower the Council of Public Instruction, after the present term, to prescribe the times and places for the examination of teachers, and to secure their uniform classification by means of a Provincial Board of Examiners. I am of opinion that this would be the most efficient mode of obviating the difficulties arising under the present arrangement. The principal details of the plan suggested would be as follows:—

1. That the Provincial Board of Examiners consist of four members, resident at or near Halifax. For the sake of efficiency and dispatch, the various branches of scholarship should be apportioned between three members of the Board, while professional subjects, such as school organization, classification, methods of instruction, and the like, should be assigned to the fourth.

2. That a uniform schedule of examination-questions on each syllabus be prepared under the supervision and with the approval of the Council, printed, and forwarded under seal to the several Inspectors. This course has been repeatedly suggested to me by many of the present Examiners; and as each syllabus of examination is already prescribed by the Council, it seems well to require their approval of the questions founded thereon.

3. That each Inspector, or, if necessary, a deputy, preside at each examination in his county. He would be required to enter in a blank form the name, age, sex, experience, character, &c., of each applicant, and to test and record the attainments of each with respect to reading and other oral work. The printed questions would then be submitted to the candidates, and immediately on the close of the examination all the papers would be transmitted to the Board at Halifax. Each member of the Board being entrusted with the examination of papers on specific subjects, the value of each applicant's work would be ascertained with expedition, and a corresponding certificate transmitted to the Inspector.

It appears to me that this plan would be found in practice to combine in a very high degree the advantages inherent in both the local and general modes, with few or none of the disadvantages that necessarily attach to the exclusive adoption of either. Its operation would inspire a mutual respect among teachers for each other's claim to membership in a common fraternity, an *esprit de corps* already manifesting itself among the teachers in some parts of the Province, would be cherished and rapidly developed, a degree of permanence would be given to teaching, and a satisfactory guarantee would be had that the uniformity of qualification implied by a uniform scale of Provincial grants, has an actual existence in the practical operation of the system.

The granting of 3d class permissive licenses of *local and temporary* value could be as readily effected as at present, in order to meet any exigency which might temporarily arise in a few of the more backward Districts of the Province. The examination of the students attending the Provincial Normal School could also be most efficiently conducted in connection with the Board of Examiners.

Teachers' licenses would, of course be subject to suspension or cancellation by the Boards of Commissioners, in the same manner and for the same causes as at present.

The following is the conclusion of the Report:—

It is not necessary to say more in order to show that greater activity has been manifested in the concerns of education than in any former year. The work of Education however has but just begun. The Legislature has acknowledged the right of every inhabitant of Nova Scotia to the price-

less blessing of a free education; created a permanent and expansive mode of support; and, as never before, sought by an extensive and constant supervision to establish schools within the reach of every child, and to render these schools efficient in the highest possible degree. The hearty response, as shown by the facts given in this report, which the great body of the people have accorded to the measures taken for the introduction of a system of public schools, has placed this great undertaking above the range of doubt or experiment. It remains to awaken those among the people who have not yet become alive to the claims of universal education; to encourage and stimulate the various sections to procure school accommodation where none at present exists, and to perfect, where necessary, that which has already been procured; and by well directed means to call into the teaching profession such a supply and quality of talent as is demanded in order that the system shall yield those noble and lasting fruits which its founders had in view, and which by its adaptedness to the circumstances of our people it is so admirably fitted to confer. All these objects may, by the united and persevering efforts of the friends of education, be easily attained; and it is only required that, by such judicious improvements as experience may suggest, legislation may keep pace with the growth of an advanced educational sentiment throughout the Province.

SCHOOL LEGISLATION, SESSION OF 1867.

THE following Act to amend the general law of the Province concerning public schools, has been passed during the present session of parliament. It will be seen that the amendments chiefly refer to Halifax city. Among the provisions referring to the whole province, that which establishes a Provincial Board of Examiners is of great importance; and will doubtless prove highly beneficial to teachers and to the cause of education in all its relations. Under its operation the business of teaching will rapidly rise to the position of a profession:—

AN ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE ACT FOR THE BETTER ENCOURAGEMENT OF EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, as follows:

1. The several Boards of Commissioners shall have power at the semi-annual meeting in May of each year, by vote of at least two-thirds present thereat, to unite two or more School Sections into one School Section, on a petition addressed to the Board of Commissioners by a majority of the rate-payers of each of the sections, setting forth that they have agreed among themselves, on the terms on which the existing liabilities shall be borne by the rate-payers in the several sections.

2. The union shall take effect on the day fixed by law for the next Annual School Meeting, notice of which meeting shall be issued by a County Inspector; and such meeting shall elect a board of three Trustees for the new section.

3. The Council of Public Instruction shall be empowered to appoint four qualified persons to constitute a Provincial Board of Examiners, to examine and report upon the written exercises of all candidates for license to teach in the Public Schools of this Province. The Council shall also have power to prescribe the mode in which examinations shall be conducted, to designate the times and places at which candidates shall present themselves for examination, and to make such further arrangements as may be necessary, in order to insure the uniform classification and licensing of teachers. The Examiners so appointed shall be paid at the rate of five cents for each paper submitted for their judgment, provided the said payment shall not exceed an average of seventy-five cents per candidate for licenses of the several grades, and the person appointed to conduct the examination in each county shall be paid a sum not exceeding three dollars per diem while actually engaged in the duty. The foregoing provisions shall be in lieu of those contained in the "Act for the better encouragement of Education," respecting Provincial and District Examiners.

4. In cases where the number of rate-payers in any School Section exceeds twelve, the Clerk of the Peace shall be entitled to receive twenty-five cents for affixing to the Trustees' list the amount of real and personal property, for which the rate-payers of the section are assessed in the County rate roll.

CITY OF HALIFAX.

5. Every male person of full age, having been resident in the City six months or upwards immediately previous to the levying of the assessment in any year, not being assessed to the amount of one dollar for the support of Public Schools in respect of real or personal property, shall be assessed in the sum of one dollar for the support of such schools during the year; but the City Council shall have power to exempt from the payment of such assessment any person whom they may deem unable to pay the same; and upon