

SHELburnE COUNTY.

A. C. A. DOANE, Inspector.

SIR,—

The educational condition of the County has not materially altered during the year. The number of schools is somewhat less than last reported. This was probably owing to neglect on the part of ratepayers to provide means at the annual meeting for sustaining schools, and, in some instances, to the want of suitable houses.

The sections not having schools are the following:—Light House Island, Ensor's, Middle Clyde, Middle Ohio, McNutt's Island, East Green Harbor, Upper Clyde, West Sable, East Sable, Power's Brook, Upper Wood's Harbor, and the colored section at Port La Tour. The first three sections contain but few inhabitants, or from three to six families in each, have no school houses, and in one only a school of four months. There seems little prospect of schools houses or permanent schools in these sections for some time to come. The next three sections are more thickly populated, are without school houses and without schools. Last year a meeting was called at Middle Ohio, a small sum voted towards building a house, a site selected, a few sticks of timber placed on the spot, and the work was abandoned. The trouble seemed to be unwillingness on the part of the people to pay taxes, and reluctance on the part of the Trustees to enforce payment. The same difficulty has arisen on McNutt's Island; the people refuse to be taxed for the building of a school house or the support of a school. At East Green Harbor where there are about sixty children requiring instruction, the school party and the anti-school party have been contending for years, and the former seem now to be gaining, for the frame of a school house has been put up and a small sum has been voted for continuing the work. At Upper Clyde where there is a good school house the Trustees say there are not sufficient children to form a school. The same objection is raised at West Sable. At East Sable the Trustees neglected to secure the services of a teacher for the Summer Term, and the house, not being finished, is too uncomfortable for Winter use. No satisfactory excuse was rendered for not having a school at Power's Brook except the frequent complaint of "hard times." One has been commenced this Winter.

The house at Upper Wood's Harbor was in such a dilapidated condition that the Board of Commissioners deemed it advisable to have it condemned and to direct important repairs or the erection of a new one. The people, however, have not yet made any movement in the matter, and seem indifferent. It is a large section where about eighty pupils are needing instruction. The colored school at Port La Tour is also closed because the colored people being few and not opulent, plead that they cannot support a separate school, and ask to be united with the white section. To this the people of the latter strongly object, and so the matter rests. The colored people for more than a year have not had any school.

A new house has been built at Shag Harbor with one school room and a class room. It is a commodious structure, is furnished with improved desks and possesses many conveniences not found in the older buildings. The house in Hamilton's section was so far completed that a school was taught in it during the Summer. It is of goodly size and is intended for the holding of religious services as well as for school purposes. This is a sparsely settled section, and the few residents deserve much praise for what they have already done.