

also erected a neat outhouse. The Oakland section have also built commodious building, which will be quite finished and furnished in such manner as will enable them to compete for the superior grant at the beginning of the ensuing term. This section never before had a school-house. What schools they have had formerly were only intermittent, and were always kept in a room in some private house. The Clearland section is also building a new house, which they will endeavour to have finished before November, if possible. The schools having increased in number, my work increases in proportion."

Yarmouth Co.—G. J. Farish, Esq., M.D., Inspector, reports.—"The summer holidays have interfered with my inspection, still, during the month I have visited 18 schools in different parts of the county, and perceive a steady and decided improvement in nearly all. Except in a few remote sections, I find a good number of the prescribed books in use in the schools, and the trustees are anxious to procure more, but are waiting for a vote at the October meeting to enable them to do so.

The summer vacation of the Yarmouth Seminary commenced on the 19th inst. It was preceded by a public examination, which passed off well.

There are at present in successful operation in this county sixty-one legal schools, and four private schools, beside the two higher departments of the Yarmouth Seminary. Of these sixty-one, there are six competing for the superior School Grant. The legal schools are all, of course, supported by assessment; the private ones by voluntary contributions or fees.

The number of legal common schools in this county last summer was 48, against 61 for this term. No better evidence can be produced that the educational advantages of the country are increasing.

The following alterations have taken place in teachers during the present term. Mr. Francis Cheekly has resigned the Principalship of the Lower Town school, and his place has been supplied by Mr. Alfred Smith, B.A., of Sackville, and Mr. Angus Sinclair has retired from the Central Town section. The situation has been filled by Mr. Jacob Durkee, a pupil from the Seminary.

As a proof of the increasing interest that is taken in Education in this county, I may mention that in eighteen cases where the rate-payers refused at the last October meetings to vote sufficient money for the support of the schools during the year, they have freely come forward at special meetings and furnished the necessary funds for that purpose, and in two other cases, at special meetings, voted money for building houses.

There have been completed during the present year, or are now in course of erection, in this county, nine new houses, most of them buildings of the first class, and three others have been enlarged, repaired, and refurnished."

Digby Co.—The Inspector for the county of Digby reports.—"It gives me pleasure to be able to report that the work of building and repairing school-houses is making steady progress in this county. In six or seven sections the well-directed efforts of a few individuals were for a long time frustrated by the stern opposition they had to encounter, and they began almost to give up all hope of seeing a school-house erected in their midst. But their resolution and perseverance will, ere long, be crowned with complete success. One of the houses referred to, will replace that which caught fire more than two years ago, and had just then undergone thorough repair. This accident will, however, result in great good to the section, as it will thus give it a school-house very superior to the one which it lost. Another will form a striking contrast to the wretched hovel, shall I call it, to which some clung with remarkable tenacity, simply because a commodious building would involve a little outlay.

It is most gratifying also to be able to state that in two sections, of which I almost despair, the school-houses have been put in thorough repair, and are now occupied. Others, in which the work had been in abeyance some time, will be, speedily, in a forward state.

There are 54 schools actually in operation this term, being an increase of 9 over the last. The attendance, so far as I have inspected, is satisfactory. There will be a considerable increase of enrolled pupils. The attendance last term exceeded that of the summer of 1866, by 138. There can be little doubt, therefore, that the registered number of children, during the summer of 1867, will exhibit an increase over that of 1866, of at least 900. Increasing efforts are made to procure proper apparatus. Several sections have recently procured a good supply of books, maps, and diagrams; without these educational appliances, however earnest and able a teacher may be, it is difficult to see how any school can be efficiently conducted."

Queens Co.—Samuel P. Fairbanks, Esq., Commissioner of Crown Lands, in a letter acquainting the Inspector of Queens Co. that he (Mr. F.) had given a lot of land to the Trustees of the section near Port Jolie, for the purpose of a public school-house, adds:—"I have also requested the Superintendent of Education to select as many Elementary School-books as may be required for about 20 or 30 scholars, and to forward them to your care, trusting that you will take the trouble to place them in the hands of the trustees, to be distributed among the pupils free of charge. I sincerely hope that the cause of education will advance in Queens County. Some of the older inhabitants will recollect that I was not indifferent to the subject when I dwelt amongst them. I recognize in the present educational system a well-considered and

judicious measure,—a vast improvement upon the former,—and I shall continue to watch its progress, in the fullest confidence that it will receive the support of parents, and become a blessing to their children."

The Inspector reports:—"Liverpool is now thoroughly embarked in the erection of its long-contemplated County Academy. The edifice will be, I presume, in architectural style, in size and commodiousness, second to none in the province. It will be on the ground 76 x 54 feet with 35 feet posts, and a basement excavated from the solid rock for furnaces, &c. It is just now put under contract, to be completed by the new year. The frame will go up next week. It will occupy one of the most commanding sites in town. The citizens of Liverpool pride themselves in stately public buildings. There are at present five flourishing schools in town, but all struggling against a strong tide of obstacles arising from inadequate accommodation. Another school is needed, but there is no place for it. Already the people's educational boon is inaugurating a new and bright era for Liverpool.

In other parts of the county several other fine houses are advancing towards completion. A few days since Brooklyn section had the misfortune to lose its house by fire. This was a large two story building, intended to accommodate a graded school with three teachers, and was nearly ready for the furniture. The cause of the fire is unknown. It probably originated from a match with which a tobacco pipe had been lighted, or from a cask of lime.

S. P. Fairbanks, Esq., of Halifax, has generously presented Catharine's River section with a site for a school-house, and, as you are already aware, has made arrangements to furnish the school, as a further gift, with the prescribed school books. This is a noteworthy example, especially as the section is poor and scattered."

Colchester Co.—H. C. Upham, Esq., reports:—"During the week commencing July 1, I visited the schools in the following Sections,—Lower Onslow, Lower Village of Truro, Old Barns, Clifton or Black Rock, Beaver Brook, Green's Creek No. 2, Green's Creek, No. 1, Princeport, and Pleasant Valley. A pleasing feature in this week's travel is that there is no vacant school-house. The school at Lower Onslow has been under the charge of Mr. John R. Downing since the beginning of 1864, excepting one term when Mr. D. attended the Normal School. He is in most respects a very valuable teacher, having a happy faculty of imparting knowledge and governing his school with facility. The school at Lower Village of Truro is an exception to the general rule, the teacher having been brought up in the section, and possessing the confidence and esteem of the pupils and parents. The school at Old Barns is in like manner an evidence that a young man brought up in a section, and mostly educated in its school, may become a valuable teacher in his own home. Neither of the young men referred to have any difficulty in managing their respective schools without severity or harshness. The people of Beaver Brook have discovered that a very little more added to the sectional assessment gives the services of a first-class teacher, and secures for the section superior educational advantages. In all of the above Sections improvements and progress have been made during the past year. Lower Village has a new house completely finished and furnished; Old Barns school-house has benefited from fresh paint and white-wash; Clifton school-house has been well seated; Beaver Brook house has been slightly improved; of the Green's Creek houses, No. 1 has been finished, and No. 2 has made some progress. All the schools but Clifton have been provided with books, and most of them have some addition to their apparatus.

During the week commencing July 8, I visited schools at Earleton Village, West Earleton, North Earleton, Rossville and Bairechan. The outside of the new house at Earleton village is completed. Although the school is taught in the building, the interior is entirely unfinished. It is of fine dimensions, and will be, when finished, well adapted to the work of the section. It is certainly absurd that the pupils should be very indifferently furnished with books, and these too, not authorized—the N. S. Reading Books not having been introduced. The attendance is very miserable, evincing a great want of interest—the average being for six weeks only 49 per cent. This is to be the more regretted, since the school is conducted in a most efficient manner. The school-house at Rossville Section is in a similar condition. There is no apparatus except a very poor black-board and two poor maps. The benches are of a most scandalous character, such as no one could expect to find in a respectable, let alone settled, and comparatively wealthy neighbourhood like this, in the present day.

During the week beginning July 15, I visited the schools in North River, West Branch North River, Kempton, Upper Pictou Road, Riversdale and Greenfield Sections, and Union Section which has no school. The new school-house in North River is in progress. It occupies a pleasant central site, and will be in strong contrast with the premises now occupied. The appearance of things at Kempton is improving. There is a larger attendance in the Upper Pictou Road school, and the efforts of one or two persons in the section are worthy of high praise.

The school at Greenfield presents a better appearance than formerly, in attendance, order, and attention to work.

On the 30th I visited the school at Folly Mountain, West. I referred in a former report to the pleasing change in this section. Still further improvement has been made. The fine site is enclosed with a neat substantial fence.