

of remote places, I have communicated with the Inspectors on the importance of establishing additional agencies for the sale of School Books in those parts of the Province where the supply has hitherto been too limited.

REPORTS OF INSPECTORS.

The Reports of the Inspectors will exhibit very fully the condition of our Common Schools. Some of these Schools, I am sorry to say, are very inferior, and there are difficulties in the way of their improvement which only time and labor can overcome. In other cases, however, the Teachers are competent and faithful; their Schools are well taught, and well governed. But, notwithstanding all that is said against our Common Schools, it cannot be denied that they have done, and are now doing a large amount of good. It is admitted on all hands that, since the establishment of the Training School, and a system of inspection, the standard of qualification of the Teacher has been raised, and the education of the Schools materially improved.

There is everywhere, and amongst all classes throughout the Province, an anxiety for education. The people value it as absolutely necessary, and are willing to unite in any legitimate means to secure it. I trust that my own labors during the last few months, in urging this important subject, have, in some degree, assisted in promoting this disposition. These labours have also been advantageous to myself personally, as they have given me a more accurate knowledge of the educational condition of the Province.

The service is one in which earnest, persevering, and faithful effort is required, and in which such effort will be well repaid. The children rising up around us demand our care, as we look to them to fill our places after we have passed away.

I sincerely trust that the effort now in progress may, through the Divine Blessing, issue in the establishment of a sound educational system, which will be a means of permanent usefulness to the rising generation of New Brunswick.

2. PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

(Extract from the Report of the Rev. Dr. Forrester, Chief Superintendent of Education.)

There are appended to this Report various tables, shewing the number of Schools and Districts in the Province; expenditure for Schools, &c.;—number, age, and sex of scholars,—duration of schools, sex of teachers, character of school houses, and abstract of Grammar School returns,—but the Superintendent regrets that these tables are only to be regarded as an approximation of the truth. He considers that it will be necessary to appoint a staff of paid agents to collect these statistics, before an accurate and reliable view can be given of the condition of Education throughout the Province.

The Superintendent also remarks that there is some improvement in the state of Education throughout the Province since last year,—that the number of schools has considerably increased, that the difference between the number of schools taught in summer and winter has diminished, and that, although the public money expended is somewhat smaller than that of last year, the amount raised by the people is larger, by a few hundreds. He also states that the apparatus and equipments, as well as the whole style and character of the education imparted both in the Common and Grammar Schools, seem decidedly on the advance.

The Superintendent forcibly depicts the evils arising from irregular attendance of the scholars at the Public Schools,—many of the schools being closed for months. He also states that there are now upwards of 100 Normal trained teachers engaged in the duties of their vocation throughout the Province, and that he cannot supply half the demand for such teachers. Dr. Forrester also comments on the great diversity of allowance from the Provincial funds to the different teachers. It appears that, generally, the teachers in the more thickly settled districts, where the schools are the largest, receive the least public money.

UNIFORMITY OF TEXT BOOKS.

The sum of £600 has, as usual, been expended in the purchase of school books, which have been proportionally distributed among the various School Boards. I think I can now congratulate the Province on the near prospect of a uniformity of school books. I have been aiming at this ever since I entered on the duties of my present office; and this year considering the Province as ripe for the change, a great proportion of the above sum has been expended in the purchase of the Irish National Series alone. One firm has stereotyped all those of the series required by the common schools of the Province, which are sold at a lower rate than any other class of school books now in general use. Other booksellers are importing the same series, so that, in the course of a year or so, a complete uniformity in the school books used throughout the Province will prevail. Out of the £600 granted by the Province for this above object, £50 has

been paid to Mr. H. Reid for 1000 copies of his publication on Geography.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

I cannot here omit noticing, that nothing has been done during the past year relative to the school libraries. My views on this subject have been set forth in several succeeding reports. I am thoroughly convinced that there is no way of giving satisfaction in the dispensing of this boon, and in the distributing of these books, but by allowing the people to make their own selection. For this purpose a catalogue of suitable and profitable books ought to be prepared, to receive the sanction of the Legislature, and a Repository opened, in some central locality of the Province, for their reception. In May next, had it not been for the act of the Legislature of last session, there would have been not less than £2000 due this fund, which, if judiciously expended, would go far in laying the foundation of a pretty extensive Library, and which, being added to year after year would be the means of diffusing among our population an immense amount of valuable information, and tend largely to elevate the whole of our industrial and moral economy.

NORMAL AND MODEL SCHOOLS.

The number of pupils in attendance at these Institutions is still on the increase. During the winter of 1857 and 1858 there were in attendance 61 pupil teachers and 3 paying pupils. Of these, at the end of the term, 8 received first class certificates, and 33 were awarded second class certificates, and 8 obtained scholarship. Last summer session there were in attendance 46 pupil teachers, 4 paying pupils, and 1 agricultural. Of these, 1 received a Grammar School diploma, 19 obtained first class, and 11 second class certificates.

The learned Doctor earnestly contends for a renewal of the grant of £100 formerly appropriated by the Province for scholarships at the Normal School. He states that there is no Normal School with the same equipment and staff of officers; either on this or the old continent, supported at the same moderate rate. He also observes that at the Training School in New Brunswick, the sum of 6s. per week is granted to every pupil in attendance, and there is no Normal School, either on this or the other side of the Atlantic (except that in Nova Scotia), that does not support, either in whole or in part, the students in attendance. Nothing of the kind is done at the Normal School at Truro. The Superintendent observes that surely £100 a year given, not in a eleemosynary way, but as a reward of diligence and success in the prosecution of their studies, is a comparatively small sum to appropriate to such an object.

He further states that there is now a larger attendance at the School than on any former occasion, there being enrolled 73 pupil teachers and 1 paying pupil.

He also observes that the attendance at the Model Schools is considerably increased since the date of his last report. The average number of attendance during the past year having been 168.

EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN, WITH FARM.

The Superintendent states that the soil of the experimental garden and farm at the Normal Institution is thoroughly exhausted, and that, before it is capable of answering the end intended, it must pass through a process of cultivation, both mechanical and chemical, for which purpose between £300 and £400 will be required, in consecutive yearly grants of £150.

TABULAR STATEMENTS.

It appears from the tables annexed to the report, that there are throughout the Province receiving Provincial aid 1,123 schools, educating 34,053 pupils, at an average cost to the Province of 4s. per pupil, and to the people 9s. 8½d. The average salary of each teacher is £38 16s. 11d., and the average duration of schools 9½ months. There are 51 Grammar Schools in the Province.

II. Papers on Practical Education.

I. HINTS ON ENGLISH COMPOSITION.

BY GEORGE H. B. COCKBURN, ESQ., M.A. DIRECTOR OF THE MODEL GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR UPPER CANADA.

In a country like Canada, where every one who aspires to occupy any position is more or less called upon to express his sentiments publicly, either orally or through the medium of the press, we should imagine that English Composition would hold a prominent place in the schedule of our school studies. But our daily experience tells us that such is not the case; and that we are generally left to acquire that art in a loose, nondescript manner, after we are supposed to have finished our education. We believe, however, that many of our zealous teachers are fully sensible of this defect, but have been deterred from giving this branch a prominent place in the regular curriculum of studies; from an exaggerated idea of