

Report of N. B. Schools.

The report of Chief Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Inch, on public school education in New Brunswick for the year 1900 is an interesting document, covering 200 pages. In comparing the attendance of the past with that of the previous year, it is found that there is not that improvement that we should expect, in number of schools in operation, the number of pupils enrolled and regularity of attendance. The causes assigned, in part, were the presence of an unusual epidemic in the northern section of the province, and a more than usual business activity which has affected the supply of teachers as well as the attendance of scholars.

There has been no material change in the salaries of teachers, except a small advance in the case of first class male teachers. The wealthier districts have not set the example of paying good, living salaries to teachers; and, Dr. Inch states, it is not unusual to find a higher salary paid in a district having a taxable valuation of \$20,000 or \$30,000 than one four or five times that amount. There is too much of an inclination to be satisfied with cheap teachers.

Of the teachers employed, twenty-one per cent. are men and seventy-nine per cent. women. A much larger percentage of teachers of the higher classes has been employed during recent years—a gratifying feature; but it is a pity that ratepayers do not appreciate their services in a tangible shape.

The attendance of pupils in high and superior schools has increased in the last ten years nearly 300 per cent.

The reports of the different inspectors are filled with interesting facts, from which we shall quote in the next number.

One excellent thought of the Chief Superintendent on Arbor Day is appropriate to this number of the REVIEW:

The educational influence of the surroundings of the school extends throughout the community and even to the casual passer by. What must it be upon the impressionable minds and hearts of the children who from day to day and year to year have before their eyes as a perpetual object lesson the bare and broken walls and ceilings of many school rooms, and the rough and forbidding grounds which surround the average country school? To make and keep the school home of the children attractive and elevating, requires constant thought and attention as well as a little labor and expense; but it pays in the increased happiness, refined taste and good morals of the little ones, and leaves to them a rich inheritance of the pleasant memories of school days.

And there are Many Others.

"I enjoy reading the strong sensible articles in the REVIEW."
R. E. H.

An Explanation.

In the New Brunswick Legislature recently the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW came in for some attention and criticism at the hands of the members. To place the matter fairly before our readers, we quote from the official report of the debate "concerning school books:"

Mr. Hazen said that he would like an explanation from the government why certain text-books in the schools had been changed. * * * The new geography is very unsatisfactory. The EDUCATIONAL REVIEW in a recent article condemns the geography in very strong terms, and claims that the book is written from an American standpoint, and that it is not equal to the text-book which it supplanted. The EDUCATIONAL REVIEW was, he believed, the organ of the school-teachers of the province. * * *

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said that the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW is not considered as the organ of the teachers of the province, and more than that, he had information that the article referred to by the honorable leader of the opposition was published and paid for by a rival concern. He believed that the great majority of teachers are in favor of the change made in the text-books. There had been no change in the geography used in the schools for twenty-six years, and it would seem that a new book was desirable.

Hon. Mr. Hill said that the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW was not an organ of the school-teachers, but was merely a paper published by an individual. He would venture to say that not one-fifth of the teachers in the province take or read the REVIEW. With regard to school books, he would take the opinion of the chief superintendent of education and the chancellor of the university sooner than that of an anonymous writer in the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.—Report, March 20, 1901.

The editor of the REVIEW immediately wrote to Hon. Mr. Tweedie, Premier of the Province, and to Hon. Mr. Hill, the following letters:

LETTER TO HON. MR. TWEEDIE.

ST. JOHN, N. B., March 21, 1901.

HON. L. J. TWEEDIE, M.P.P., Fredericton:

DEAR SIR,—In the morning papers of this date I notice a statement made by you to this effect,—that you "had information that the article referred to by the honorable leader of the opposition (an article which appeared in the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW of May, 1900, criticizing the new school geography), was published and paid for by a rival concern."

The "information" is not correct; and I can with confidence in your own sense of fair play ask you either to make public my denial or place this letter in the hands of the person or persons who gave you such information.

I have the honor, dear sir, to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

G. U. HAY.

LETTER TO HON. MR. HILL.

ST. JOHN, N. B., March 21, 1901.

HON. GEO. F. HILL, M.P.P., Fredericton:

DEAR SIR,—If you are correctly reported in the St. John papers of this date, you do the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW a great injustice. In your speech on the debate "concerning school