

For the REVIEW.]

Education in Newfoundland.

Education in Newfoundland has never undergone such a sifting as it has during the present session of the legislature. The public generally are awakened to the fact that the ancient system of education in this country cannot be brought to a level with the requirements of modern times. The present rising generation have attained to such proficiency that an innovation is sadly required in order to meet the demands of the present day; such being the case the government has been strenuously working for the improvement of education.

The press as well has taken an active part in proclaiming its claims. Individuals have been aroused and have, with the public, cast their opinion in favor of the general sentiment of the island. The Church of England has played no small part for its betterment. At the last meeting of the Diocesan Synod at St. John's the subject of education formed a very important part in the proceedings. A petition was drawn up and sent to all schools under Church of England Boards throughout the island. These were largely signed and sent in to the government. The result of this unanimous appeal was \$5,000 for the improvement of education. This amount was voted under a Loan Act. Although this amount was small it stopped many a hole and opened the way, so to speak, for further grants.

A Bill has been passed and the government has voted the sum of \$15,000 for the improvement of education in Newfoundland.

Hon. Robert Bond, Colonial Secretary, in addressing the house, said, that the greatest amount of good to be derived from this grant would be by raising the teachers' salaries and keeping in the field what teachers we have. During the past ten or fifteen years teachers, as soon as they become 1st grade, leave their schools and go to the States or Canada where ample scope is to be found for their talent.

The Central Board, which is about to be established, will do well in distributing this amount to raise the salaries of teachers. Teachers in Newfoundland are very poorly paid, scarcely enough to live decently. What is \$200 to pay towards books, clothes and travelling expenses for a man? and yet many will say that teachers are well paid for their services. To my mind a very few years hence will find us in a more progressive position and brought more on a level with our neighboring provinces—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Undoubtedly a great change has been wrought in Newfoundland during the past few years, and the advantages of education are certainly better understood and appreciated than they were. The parish priest has often to listen to the lamentations of the

aged poor of his flock—that they cannot read, that schools were not so common in their days as they are now, that learning was not so much thought of when they were young, etc., and many such will willingly and thankfully acknowledge the superior advantages which their children and grandchildren possess in the present schools of their own town or village.

Bonavista, Newfoundland.

J. T. C.

For the REVIEW.]

Normal School Examinations.

Steps should be taken towards lessening the amount of elementary teaching in the Provincial Normal School of New Brunswick by requiring more of student teachers at their entrance examination, or at least by giving more value to a pass at that examination, so that their time in the school may be more largely devoted to professional work and their minds relieved of much of the uncertainty attending the result of their final examination for license.

At present, I believe, the equivalent of an examination for license of class III. is required of all candidates for matriculation into the Normal School. Why not make this a provincial examination for license of that class in all but professional subjects, so that those who pass successfully need only be further examined in the latter subjects to obtain a third-class license at the end of their course? As it is now, applicants for class III. have to repeat in substance the same examination which admitted them to the school—surely a needless work and worry for them.

And since there are from fifteen to twenty subjects in the examination for license of class I., it is a serious question whether candidates required to present themselves for all at one examination can do themselves justice at the time, or fully profit by their Normal School course with such an ordeal before them. It has been suggested that the required subjects be divided into two groups, in either of which a candidate might pass and obtain a certificate at any provincial examination; license of higher class, however, not to be granted until the applicant has satisfied the requirements of both.

Group A might include geography, history, arithmetic and such other subjects as are supposed to be well taught in our common schools, and a class I., class II. and class III. examination in these subjects be offered to applicants for admission to the Normal School, with the understanding that a certain average percentage would relieve them from having to meet the same examination again. Group B to include the higher branches and professional training, could be open, as at present, only to graduates of a Normal School.

Is there not time yet before the next session of the school begins for the Board of Education to consider the advisability of adopting such a plan?

St. Stephen, N. B.

J. VROOM.