

remedy be applied, continue to operate injuriously to the best interests of the people and progress of the country. If parents generally felt the importance of education for their children, this obstruction to the educational advancement of the country would be greatly lessened. But since many of them are indifferent to its great value, and indisposed to make the necessary sacrifice to secure so great a blessing for their children, the work of reform must be very slow, if we are obliged to wait for their enlightenment on this point by ordinary means. Poverty, without a doubt, causes this irregularity in some cases, but for the most part, it is the result of covetousness or indifference on the part of parents. The remedy for this great obstruction to educational progress, is, in my opinion, to be found in a judicious, yet stringent Legislative enactment enforcing attendance at the public schools. The enlightened sentiment of this county is, I believe, largely in favor of such an enactment. The necessity for some remedy for this evil elicited from the Commissioners of Schools for Annapolis West, at their last meeting, the following resolution which was unanimously concurred in:—"Resolved, that the Board respectfully recommends the Council of Public Instruction to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary to insure the compulsory attendance of pupils at our 'public schools.'" It is to be hoped that the Legislature will, ere long, see the way clear to pass an enactment of this character necessary to the perfection of our present educational system, and to the production of the highest profit and good to those whom it was more especially designed to benefit.

The "Royal Readers" and the "Maritime Readers," which are being gradually introduced into the schools, are highly approved of by the best educationists in the county, and are, I believe, superior to the old Nova Scotia Series. The chapter on elocution, which I have been informed is to be inserted in the fifth number of the Maritime Readers, will supply a desideratum which was greatly needed. Good elocutionists are to be found in very few of the schools in this county. A large majority of the teachers are not well posted on this important subject, hence, there is not that improvement in reading that could be desired.

My notes of inspection for the year will show the results of my official visit to the various schools. I have endeavored to give a faithful report of the state of each school visited and of the efficiency of the teacher employed.

New school houses have been opened in Wiswall and Funday Sections. In Clements West Section, the school house which was old and not adapted to the wants of the section, was destroyed by fire a short time before the close of the summer term. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

The County Academy has been performing a very creditable amount of work. There has been a marked improvement in this institution within a few years past. The benefits conferred are however very largely confined to the wealthy section in which it is situated, and the extra Provincial Grant which it receives, gives that section a great advantage over other sections equally deserving.

In conclusion I may state that the interest of the people in the cause of education is gradually on the increase. Although the amount of progress is not so great as it should be, yet, on the whole there is much cause for encouragement. The provisions of the law are becoming more generally understood and appreciated, yet the expense and supervision must be continued, and increased when necessary, in order to secure to the youth of the country the greatest amount of benefit to be derived therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

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