

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

G. W. HILTZ, Inspector.

SIR,—

I beg leave to submit for your information the following, as my first Annual Report on the state of the Public Schools in Lunenburg County.

The number of School Sections in the County is one hundred and thirty-two—one hundred and three in the District of Lunenburg and New Dublin, and twenty-nine in the District of Chester.

Of these, one hundred and three sections have had school in operation some part of the school year. About seventy-five per cent. of them during the entire year. Eight of the school sections of the County are situated upon islands, and with the exception of Heckman's and Tancook Islands have school during the winter season only. In a considerable number of the unoccupied sections there are as yet no school-houses, there being eleven of this description in the District of Chester alone. Some of these are too poor and scattered to support a school, even for a portion of the year. In some others where a better state of matters exists, initiatory steps have been taken for the erection of suitable school buildings, and I have but little doubt, that by the end of another year creditable additions will be made to the number of school edifices already erected. During the past year one new school house has been put up. This much needed building has been erected in Fox Point section, District of Chester. The people of this section, long divided as to school matters, have recently become united, and purpose having their school in operation at the beginning of the New Year.

During the year five school-houses have been condemned by the Board of School Commissioners, as unfit for school purposes. Three of these have made preparations to replace these old and worn-out structures by new and suitable buildings.

Most of the school houses in the District of Lunenburg and New Dublin, especially the French ones, are neat and commodious, creditable to the different sections, and suitable in most respects to their needs. A few are models of neatness and taste. In the District of Chester, however, there is really not one building well adapted for school uses, most of them being old, small, and in some instances totally dilapidated.

The new building about to be erected in the town of Chester, will, I trust, furnish such an example of neatness and adaptation to the wants of the school as will not be wholly lost on the surrounding sections. The furniture in most of our school-houses is of the Dawson pattern or some modification of it, and is usually pretty well adapted to our needs. In a few schools the much needed patent desk is to be found. Several of our school buildings are yet used for the double purpose of the Church and School, and in these the comfort of the pupils has too often been sacrificed to the convenience of the congregation. School grounds are found enclosed in very few sections, and in none have any attempts been made at their improvement. Suitable outbuildings have been put up on most, but there are yet a few sections that have entirely neglected these very necessary appendages to school premises. My representations in this behalf have not been entirely without fruit. In the matter of supply of school apparatus much remains to be done. Very few schools can be said, in this respect, to be thoroughly equipped, though in most hemispheres, blackboards, Maps of Nova Scotia, ball-frames and hand-bells can be found. A very few