

witness many growing up at their very doors to manhood and womanhood in worse than ignorance. This is unjust to the rate-payers, and a crime against society. Moreover, the section is defrauded of money which, if these children were in attendance at school, it would draw from the County fund. So keenly are these evils felt, that in many places a strong feeling exists in favour of a compulsory enactment on the subject. While we should deprecate any extreme legislative enforcement of parental obligations in this behalf so early in the history of our public school system, yet it is a fair subject for consideration whether it would not be advisable for the Legislature to empower the trustees of sections where ample school accommodation has been provided, to enforce, under the sanction of two-thirds of the voters present at the annual meeting, the attendance at the public schools of all children between five and fifteen years of age who are not receiving instruction elsewhere, or are not debarred from such attendance by any physical or other legitimate disability. Such an enactment would be safe, since it would take effect only as the country became prepared for it.

The number of pupils daily present at school, on an average, was 5.05 per cent. less, in proportion to the number registered, in the winter term, than for the corresponding term of 1865. It will be in the recollection of all that the winter was unusually severe and stormy. It was to be expected, therefore, that the regularity of attendance at school would be unfavorably affected. During the summer, however, the proportion was better by 0.59 per cent. than during the corresponding term of the previous year. The total number of pupils daily present at the schools during the time in session was, for the winter term, 25,988.86, and its equivalent full-term average, 22,175.53; for the summer term, the corresponding numbers were 32,489.02, and 27,971.50. By the expression, "equivalent full-term average," is meant the number to which the average daily attendance at the schools during the time in operation is equivalent when distributed over the full term of six months. Thus, if a school is in operation for three months with an average daily attendance of 36, the equivalent full term average is 18. This equivalent average is therefore a most delicate and accurate test or measure of the actual amount of daily school attendance during any term, and it is on this as a basis that the distribution of the county fund is made. A school in session 100 teaching days, with an average of 30 pupils daily present, would have the same equivalent full-term average (25); as another in session 75 days, with a daily average of 40, and each would receive the same amount from the school fund of the county. If, again, we suppose these schools to have been in session every prescribed teaching day in the term, their daily average would become a full-term average, and they would receive $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ more, respectively, than in the former case. It will be seen that the principle which the law establishes for the distribution of this large fund is an admirable one, and furnishes a most beneficial stimulus to the people of every section to keep their school open as continuously as possible within the prescribed period, and to secure the constant attendance of every child of school age. The Provincial grant being distributed according to the quality and amount of work performed, also co-operates powerfully with the county fund in these respects. Local exertion now determines the actual appropriation of all educational funds in Nova Scotia.

THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL.

THE Twenty-second term of the Provincial Normal College, at Truro, was brought to a close on Thursday, the 28th inst. The closing exercises were witnessed by a crowded

house, and the respectable and intelligent inhabitants of the town and its vicinity have manifestly lost none of their interest in this valuable institution.

The Provincial Examiners, Rev. James Ross, D.D., Rev. James Robertson, L.L.D., and D. F. Higgins, Esq., M.A., spoke in terms of praise of the attainments of the pupil-teachers, and declared that there was marked improvement over previous years. Special praise was given to the increasing promptitude of the general work.

Several of the resident clergymen of the neighborhood expressed their gratification with what they had witnessed, and bore testimony to the uniform good conduct of the pupil-teachers during the term.

Of the seventy-five students who attended the institution, forty-three received diplomas. The following is the list of successful candidates:—

List of Students to whom Licenses were awarded by the Provincial Examiners, at the close of the 22nd session.

ACADEMIC LICENSE.

Mr. Alexander Ross,* Dalhousie College.
" John Calder, Richmond.

FIRST CLASS LICENSE.

Mr. John McLean, Pictou.
" Francis E. Eaton, Annapolis.
" William H. Guild, Halifax.
" Leonard G. Crowe, Colchester.
" Amasa Dickson, Cumberland.
" Angus McLean, Richmond.
Miss Emma R. Barnaby, Kings.
" Barbara Sutherland, Cumberland.
" Emma Page, do.
" Augusta Christie, Colchester.
" Esther Atwater, Antigonish.
" Annie Leake, Cumberland.
" Martha E. Archibald, Colchester.
" Anna P. Gammell, do.
" Mary Currie, Halifax.
" Emily Pinco, Kings.
" Carrie J. Doane, Shelburne.
" Janet McCurdy, Colchester.

SECOND CLASS LICENSE.

Mr. William McRae, Richmond.
" Edward B. McCabe, Halifax.
" Eutyclus Crowe, do.
" William A. McDonald, Queens.
" Samuel P. Schurman, Cumberland.
" Charles A. Kent, Colchester.
" Samuel Waddell, do.
" Judah L. M. Bishop, Kings.
" Donald McGregor, Inverness.
" Patrick McDonald, Antigonish.
Miss Margaret J. Sullivan, Colchester.
" Elizabeth Gammell, do.
" Lucinda McCurdy, do.
" Henrietta Parker, Pictou.
" Esther McLaughlan, Guysboro'.
" Bessie Logan, Hants.
" Jessie Smith, Barrington.
" Harriet Creelman, Colchester.
" Sarah Wall, do.
" Annie Killor, do.
" Margaret Black, do.
" Letitia Barnhill, do.
" Isabella McLean, Inverness.

NOTE.—Miss Phoebe W. Mills and Miss Jessie M. McQuarrie passed a first class examination, but did not receive licenses, as they had attended but one term, and had never taught.

The next session of the Normal College will open on the second Wednesday in May next, and we bespeak a large attendance of the future teachers of Nova Scotia.

J. R. M.

* Mr. Ross was not in attendance during the term, but having previously received a Grammar school certificate from the Normal School he was allowed to go up for examination.