

School work and responsibility do not end with the development of ability to do good intellectual work. There is further demanded a well-matured desire to know the best things, and a desire to learn them in the best way. It is this latter part of the work that must be insisted upon, especially in these days when methods of intellectual effort have attained such momentum. The old-time country school furnished the scholastic desire without training in any methods; and the modern school, with all its methods, will come into disrespect if it neglects to supply as keen a desire as was imparted to our fathers upon the hillside.—*The American Teacher*.

The Whitby Collegiate Institute took a somewhat new departure, and one which may be worthy of wide imitation, in having a May-day celebration this year. Principal Embree explains the objects aimed at as follows in a letter to the *Chronicle*: "I have frequently observed that the eagerness with which our youth engage in competitions of any sort is generally proportioned to the intrinsic value of the prizes offered for competition. The spirit which induced the old Greeks to engage in contests for a simple garland of olive or laurel seems to be wanting in our day. However excellent in itself a game or amusement may be as a means of exercise or recreation, it fails to attract until it becomes associated with money-making, or with some sort of gambling. It is with a view to counteract this evil tendency and to encourage the celebration of true manly and womanly qualities that the May-day ceremonies have been introduced. The girls elect as May Queen the one whom they consider most worthy of their esteem, and the boys in like manner elect the Dux—the highest womanly and manly qualities respectively being alone considered in making a choice. Those who receive the suffrages of their fellow-pupils are awarded only a simple badge in addition to a floral wreath and wand, but they receive also books or other gifts which they present to those of their fellow-pupils whom they think most deserving. The same qualities which gave the donors their election are supposed to determine the choice of the recipients of the gifts. On the occasion no gifts were made to the pupils of the divisions from which the Queen and Dux were elected, the honor being thought sufficient. The presents were supplied this time by the teachers; perhaps on a future occasion others may be disposed to assist, if the aim sought commends itself to their judgment."

The National School of Elocution and Oratory, of Philadelphia, are to hold a summer session at Grimsby Park this year. It will be their twelfth season,—fifth in Canada,—will commence July 1st and end August 11th. The course of instruction is complete in all the branches of elocution, and each member of the Faculty is a specialist in his department. Mrs. J. W. Shoemaker takes Gesture and Dramatic Reading; R. O. Moon, Expressive Reading and Extemporaneous Speech; John H. Bechtel, Orthœpy and Conversational Reading, and George H. Makuen, B.A., Voice Culture and Modulation. The support last year was not so satisfactory as it should have been, in fact, not sufficient to justify a subsequent visit, but so many throughout the Dominion have, since then, seemed specially anxious for the re-appearance of the school that the proprietors finally yielded to their requests. Among these are a large number of teachers and clergymen, who have promised their influence and assistance. We have always endeavored to show American teachers that there is a cordial welcome awaiting them in the Dominion whenever they favor us with a fraternal visit, and we are particularly bound to encourage those from whom we can learn something that will improve our educational efforts. The notably high reputation of the Philadelphia National School of Elocution and Oratory is sufficient in itself to warrant a satisfactory return for time and money spent in acquiring a knowledge of the branches taught therein, and needs not the commendation that we would feel inclined to give the institution. When the advantages of a short course in an important and elegant art are brought within easy reach of our teachers, and, at the same time, the confined atmosphere of the school-room is exchanged for the salubrity of climate and beauty of location to be enjoyed at Grimsby Park, we feel it our duty to recommend the summer session about to be held. Some special arrangements for students have been made as regards course of tuition, hotel accommodation, etc., about which it would be advisable for those who intend trying the course to write the secretary, Mr. J. H. Bechtel, 1416 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FOR 1885.

The Annual Report on the Public Schools of Prince Edward Island for 1885 is before us, and we must congratulate Mr. D. Montgomery, Chief Superintendent of Education, on the efficient state of the schools under his charge and the progressive condition of education in the insular province. The prominent features of improvement are thus summarized:—1. A steady increase in the average school attendance. 2. The greater degree of regularity with which the schools are kept in operation throughout the year—the grand total days' teaching for the whole Province being 2,100 in excess of that for the previous school year. 3. The well-marked improvement on the part of candidates from the Common Schools at the Provincial Examinations. 4. The readiness and intelligence with which the teachers adapt themselves to improvements in the school curriculum. 5. A greater demand for efficient teachers, and a greater desire on the part of school trustees to retain the services of competent instructors when once employed. 6. An increase in the number of schools in operation during the year. These points are worthy of consideration as forming the elements of a successful school system, and plainly indicate that P. E. I. is in the front rank as regards educational matters.

The number of schools is not large, being 435, employing 494 teachers—271 men and 223 women—and, under the efficient supervision of two school inspectors, combined with the decided advantage of the personal inspection of the advanced schools by the Chief Superintendent, it is not surprising that decided progress should be made. The schools are ranked according to the result of examinations made on the Inspectors' and Superintendent's visits, and as the standard is raised or lowered so is the salary of the teacher increased or decreased. This plan keeps the teacher alive and gives an impetus to the school, which, if it does not develop, is productive of the best results.

Judging by the course of study for teachers and the papers set them at examinations, the standard is second to none in the Dominion. Out of 267 candidates who wrote last year for entrance to the Provincial College and Normal School, 125 were successful, showing that this examination is a severe test. Five months' training is given in that institution, and an examination is held at the end of the term for the three grades of the teachers' licenses. No one can teach in the Public Schools without this Normal training and the possession of a license.

Salaries are not placed at an exorbitant figure considering the qualifications required of the higher classes. They are as follows:

	GRADE	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.
Male Teacher, 1st class.		\$900 00	\$265 00	\$430 29
Female " " "		350 00	220 00	286 96
Male " 2nd " "		450 00	225 00	282 33
Female " " "		400 00	180 00	21 84
Male " 3rd " "		450 00	180 00	20 20
Female " " "		300 00	130 00	170 20

In connection with this, it must be observed that if a first-class teacher has charge of a second-class school he is paid a salary commensurate with the grade of the school,—that is, receives second-class salary only. The salaries are made up by a statutory grant, according to grade, and a local or supplementary amount voted by the inhabitants of the school district, which is collected by the secretary-treasurer, and this "supplement" is increased by a like amount granted by the Local Government.

The outbreak of smallpox epidemic in the Island caused the suspension of school affairs for a short time, and necessitated closing Prince of Wales College and Normal School and the Public Schools. This unfortunately occurred when the attendance in all the schools was at its highest and school affairs most flourishing.

Although male teachers are in the majority on the Island, the experiment of giving a lady the principalship of the largest Public School in Charlottetown has been tried with much success. Miss Emma Barr is eminently qualified for the position, and we note the result with pleasure as an example of what may be done similarly in the other provinces with equal satisfaction.

The total expenditure for education in P. E. I. last year was \$145,598 60, of which the Government expended \$109,316 85, and \$36,281 75 were voted by the school districts.