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Northumberland Schools Show Many Indications of Progress

Report of Inspector MacFarlane to the Chief Superintendent of Education Most Interesting Document—The Progress and Needs of the Schools Fully Discussed—Co-operation Urged.

The following interesting survey of Northumberland County Schools by Inspector MacFarlane is taken from the Annual Report of the Department of Education:

Sir: I herewith submit my report of schools included in the above inspection for the year ended June 30th, 1917.

Viewing the work of the year in this district there are many indications of progress. New school houses built, others enlarged, the addition of new furniture and much needed apparatus greater interest taken in Nature study and school gardening, the enlistment of the boys in the cultivation of home plots and that of the girls in preservation of fruits and vegetables are signs of advancement, but we look for still greater progress next year along these same lines.

In many rural schools we want more comfortable and more attractive buildings and school grounds, a greater interest taken in school life in the district, a desire for better things. Enthusiastic teachers with the kindly cooperation of school trustees will accomplish much.

This district includes about 200 schools, of which 18 are graded, embracing 99 departments and 170 ungraded schools, and the number is increasing from year to year.

Albion—In this parish there are six Acadia schools, namely at River de la Chaise, Négus, Fair Isle, Grandville, Upper Négus, and St. Wilfred, where the children are all or nearly all of French parents, and of course speak the French language. Progress in these schools is slow. The teacher devotes one session to the teaching of French and the other to the teaching of English, and with the exception of Miss Dabreau, of Fair Isle, and Miss Lydia M. Martin, of Négus, who are well qualified to give instruction in either, I fear that poor instruction is given in English. At Baribog Bridge the attendance is small; at the Willows is another small school; the grounds should be fenced. The school room was nicely furnished and paid for with the proceeds of a concert gotten up by the teacher, Miss Catherine Driscoll. At New Jersey they have a new building but new out-buildings are also needed, and the grounds should be cleared and fenced. At Berrt Church the school has been well conducted by Miss Morrison. For the size of the village the number of pupils in attendance is small. At Tabusintac, No. 6, the school has been conducted in an efficient manner by Miss Frances Fayle. The attendance at this school is large. The grounds should be cleared and fenced. The school at No. 7 is also a large school and employs an assistant. There is an excellent school garden in connection with this school. At Cowdell good progress was made. Some parents thought Miss Stewart was too strict and she resigned at the close of the winter term. I found the school in excellent condition under her management. Gratian finds difficulty in keeping a teacher. At Red Pine Island the building is too small. The trustees contemplate enlarging the building at an early date. At Price Settlement the attendance is very irregular and progress is slow.

Blackville—A. Renou, of Ridge Miss Herriot Schofield has conducted the school for the past two years in a satisfactory manner. A new building is needed. The present house is situated on the highway road which latter also serves as a playground. The school is poorly supplied with apparatus. White Rapids has a good building but the premises should be cleared and fenced. Miss Eva Reynolds is conducting this school in a satisfactory manner. At North Renou is a very capable teacher in the person of Mrs. Gertrude Hayes but the attendance is very irregular. Piroville was without a teacher during the fall term. At Grainfield, Miss E. M. Dunn has taught for the last two years and the school has made good progress under her management. The grounds are too small, a woodshed is needed, and the house needs painting. Grey Rapids school has made good progress with Miss Mamie E. MacDonald as teacher. Underhill has a large school which has been conducted in a satisfactory manner by Miss Mary S. Warren. The superior school at Blackville is doing good work and operates a fine school garden. Repairs to the building and a new fence have greatly improved the school property at Bertholomew River. At Keenan's Sliding I found the work of the school much improved. The school at the Forks has been taught for several years by Mr.

John McKinnon. The enrollment is small and the attendance very irregular. At Morehouse is a very backward school. At New Salem, which usually employs a first class teacher and has prepared many pupils for the Normal School entrance examinations the school is not so prosperous as formerly. Bamford possesses a well furnished and well equipped school. Miss Beatrice Simms has given good satisfaction in that school. At Storeytown, Archibald and New Salem are prosperous schools. Upper New Salem should have a new building and larger grounds.

Chatham—The Town of Chatham contains 21 schools. Principal Harrison has associated with him a very efficient staff. In St. Michael's Academy where all the pupils are girls, much care is given to schoolroom decoration. The singing is delightful. There is a musical instrument in every room. All the pupils go to the basement for physical drill, which is conducted in an efficient manner by one of the sisters.

The Chatham Grammar School is the only school in this inspectorate where Domestic Science, Manual Training and School Gardening, all three, are taught. The school board desires to maintain its schools in an efficient manner.

The Middle Island, McKnight, Lower Négus and Douglasfield districts maintain small but well conducted schools.

Derby—This small parish contains six schools. At Curryville the building has been enlarged at a cost of \$300. At Beveridge the attendance is going to increase owing to the re-establishment of pulp works at Millerton, Perley Cull, and Miss Stohart continues to conduct their respective schools in an efficient manner. I had the pleasure of meeting with the teachers of this and nearby districts on the evening of June 1st at one of the regular monthly meetings of their teachers' association.

Glencly—This parish contains 14 schools. At Victoria is the only school in this inspectorate provided with screen doors and screened windows. At Wine River though the school is small the trustees refuse to engage a third class teacher unlike many other districts, which are looking for the lowest grade of teacher and will tell you that any kind of a teacher is good enough for them.

Hardwick—In the parish there are at present 9 school districts since the division of Bay du Vin. At Hardwoods, the old building having been condemned, as well as the old site, a new site was chosen, commanding a fine view of the Bay, and a new building has been built and will be ready for occupancy next term. The new building at Poirage River is already too small. This is also true of Eel River Bridge, where much dissatisfaction prevails and with good reason for families living on the river opposite the school are asked to support the school but their children are unable to enjoy the privilege of attending school. I tried to persuade the district to build a foot-bridge, but nothing as yet has been done. Unless something is done it may be necessary to exempt those people living on the side of the river remote from the school house in part at least, of their school rates. At Bay du Vin River there are pupils who walk five miles to attend school.

Ludlow—In the parish of Ludlow there are seven schools, all of which have been well conducted throughout the year. The new building at Ludlow like that at McNamara is a credit to the district.

Nelson—This parish contains eight schools, including the three department building in the village of Nelson. The village has outgrown its school accommodation. A new or enlarged building is what is needed. Residents of the Craigville section of this district are petitioning for a school. For years Nelson pupils

have been going to Harkins Alademy and to St. Mary's Academy in New castle for instruction in advance of Grade VIII. In South Négus, Miss Annie Graham for the last two years has conducted the school in an efficient manner. At Upper Nelson the building is too small. Miss Ruth Benson left here a good record, the result of her first year at teaching. With the grounds cleared and fenced and a school garden established, Nowlanville would be an attractive school. The lure of the West removed Miss Sarah Saunders at the close of the year from Nelson, No. 7. Miss Saunders was an enthusiastic teacher and school gardener. At No. 6 the building has been painted both inside and outside, the outbuildings repaired and new blinds added, giving to the house a very creditable appearance. I hope that next year No. 5, Barnaby, will do as much for its school. This school has a very capable teacher in the person of Miss Katie Fitzpatrick.

North Esk—In this parish there are ten schools in operation. Exterior funds difficulty in keeping its school open. At Seavie the house is too small in this district especially parents do not urge their children to attend school, and children who should be at school are being allowed to grow up without even a common elementary education. Parents will discover their mistake when it is too late. At Sunny Corner the school was closed during the winter term for the want of a teacher. This is a large school, employs an assistant and needs an experienced teacher. Allison Settlement has an overcrowded school. They are planning for a new building which I hope to see built before another year passes. The school at Whitneyville has greatly improved under Miss Lella H. MacKenzie. At Strathadam, Miss Margaret Rae continues to do splendid work. Miss Amy P. Sobey, who has conducted her home school at Maple Glen in an efficient manner for the last year, is leaving at the close of this term.

South Esk—In the parish there are eight schools in operation. At Halcomb when I visited the school on June 7th, I found Miss Dorothy Simpson with her pupils assembled in the woodshed, the house having been burned on the night of May 26th. The furniture was saved. The trustees intend to erect another building on the same site and to have it ready for occupancy at the opening of the fall term. The new building at Matthews was opened for school last term. The school at Cassilis, South Esk, Ellenstown and Lytleton, I found well conducted. The new house at Red Bank is a splendid building; furnace heated and one room is well furnished. Both Miss Holland and Miss Graham keep the work of their respective schools up to a commendable standard of efficiency. The primary department needs an assistant.

Newcastle—This parish contains the graded schools of Douglasstown and of Newcastle and eight other schools. Pupils from Douglasstown enter the Chatham Grammar School prepared to take up the work of Grade IX. ("Grade IX" here is evidently a misprint for Grade X or Grade XI, as Douglasstown school always has a Ninth Grade and generally a Tenth grade as well.—Editor UNION ADVOCATE) Principal Stuart is ably assisted by an experienced staff. The town of Newcastle employs 13 teachers. During the past year Principal Kane has been assisted with the work of the High School by Mr. Drummond. Grade XI pupils stand well in the list of pupils from Harkins Academy, who write the Matriculation examinations. The Board of School Trustees plan to erect a new building in the Bule section of the town and contemplate other changes tending to the greater efficiency of their town schools. I have received enquiries from the district of Beaver Brook, asking about the opening of a school in that district. As yet that district is not organized.

Arbor Day was observed by the greater number of schools in this inspectorate. In few schools, however, was work of a permanent character and according to a well defined plan accomplished. I note that altogether 77 trees, 78 shrubs, and 59 flower beds were planted.

Respectfully submitted,
P. G. MCFARLANE,
June 30th, 1917
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Notice is hereby given that the Annual ELECTION

For Mayor and Aldermen for the Town of Newcastle will be held as required by law at the Town Hall, on **TUESDAY** 16th Day of April Inst. Polling from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

Nominations of Persons duly qualified for the respective offices of Mayor and Aldermen will be received by the undersigned up to six o'clock on Friday the 12th day of April inst.
Dated at Newcastle, N. B., this 3rd. Day of April, A. D., 1918.
J. E. T. LINDON,
Town Clerk.



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