

housie, have won golden opinions respecting their educational abilities in their respective sections. W. S. Whittier, also a general student of Dalhousie, is very highly thought of in Rockville section, which tries to secure him each summer. Three Mile Plain was very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Jannette H. Archibald, a Normal School Teacher, grade B. Several grade B. teachers were unemployed during the summer, as cheaper teachers were in demand, and were waiting their chance. Quite a number of teachers are idle this winter, and judging from the applications which I have received from teachers in other Counties, I presume the same is true in these also.

As the tables show, the attendance at school is far from satisfactory. While a fair proportion of the children of the sections are registered, those registered make little more than half time. In most cases the attendance was very small when the schools were inspected in summer. In the central parts of the County the children are withdrawn from school as soon as the strawberries appear, and put in an appearance very irregularly until berries and harvest are gathered. In some sections, teachers found themselves entirely without scholars a fortnight before holidays. In other sections diphtheria broke out among the children and interfered with the attendance. In the colored Section, No. 36, Two Mile Plain, the school was closed several weeks on this account. In others, fear led the parents to keep their children at home, even when the danger was not judged to be so great as to call for the closing of the school. But the principal occasion of the small attendance is, I fear, the inefficiency and lack of interest and energy on the part of teachers. An educated, energetic teacher has generally a full school. This fact is not to be explained by assuming that it is only the larger and more intelligent sections that secure such teachers. I have noticed that such a teacher as I have just referred to, at once brings up and keeps up the attendance where hitherto it was small compared with the number of children in the section; and that again even in such sections, the attendance soon falls off where an inefficient or indolent teacher succeeds a good one. I am convinced from what I have observed that the teachers generally do not attach sufficient importance to previous preparation for the days work. Of course there are honorable exceptions. But the majority regard study as necessary only in preparing for a forthcoming teachers' examination. But this leads me to treat of an evil that seriously interferes with the attainment of the true end contemplated by the institution of the common school. Owing partly to the fact that the teaching profession has opened up a wide field for respectable employment, partly to the fact that present attainments only, no matter how or where reached, are taken into account at teachers examinations, and the comparatively low attainments necessary for obtaining some grade, the Annual Teachers' Examination has come to be the great event of the year in the common school world. Teachers who have not yet obtained the grade which they desire, employ the spare time in which they are disposed to study in preparation for that event. This stamps itself on their school work. Then there is some one, especially among the more apt and advanced of the female scholars, in almost every school that has the teaching profession in view. Further, and probably owing to the want of a County Academy in connection with the general educational system in the better class of schools, so many are found, especially in the earlier part of the Summer term, who have attendance on the examination in view, that the ordinary school-work receives very inadequate attention. The result is that success in turning out teachers or preparing for the teachers' examination, has come to be regarded, both among teachers and people, as the grand proof of a teacher's success. (This, I regard as a very serious evil. The proper end or aim of the Common School is thrust into the background. The province has already a school whose speciality is preparation for the teaching profession.