

doing an excellent work in preparing teachers to accomplish better results in science, especially in those subjects relating to agriculture. This school has already exerted a wholesome influence on the students—who have been fortunate enough to avail themselves of its courses, and the next summer session at Truro should attract a still larger number. In addition to the courses in science there will be classes in physical training, of which many will avail themselves. There should be the best attendance yet at this summer's meeting of the Rural Science School.

### Music in the Public Schools.

It is surprising to note what can be accomplished with children at a very early age in training them to sing. That is a time in their lives when they are least conscious and when they are more susceptible to the sweet simple influence of harmony and freer to express themselves than at any other age.

It was a genuine delight the other day to visit the Dufferin School, in St. John, of which Mr. M. D. Brown is principal, and to hear the voices of nearly five hundred children in chorus during the opening exercises. Afterwards with the teacher of singing, Miss Catherine C. Robinson, to listen to the teaching and exercises going on in the different rooms from grades one to four. The children all sang in that happy spontaneous way, so natural to young children,—free in expression but without that harshness so common in youthful untrained voices. This was a result of careful teaching. The children were learning to read music with surprising facility; and apparently in the two hundred voices heard there were few, if any, of those who too often say without reason "I can't sing."

If the children in city and country throughout these provinces were taught to read music and sing with trained voices how much happiness it would give to family and social life; and how much it would add to the life and interest of the schools. Nearly all our teachers can sing, and all can teach singing by note with a little instruction and by the exercise of a little will power. With trained supervisors for the cities and towns, and for an assigned number of districts in the country—for it is in the country that this education is most needed—the teaching of music could be carried on with comparatively small cost.

### New Brunswick Schools.

There has been an increase in the enrolment and percentage of attendance of pupils in the New Brunswick schools for the year ending 30th June, 1910, and the increased attendance, Chief Superintendent Carter states, is furnished almost entirely by the rural schools. The total number of pupils at school during the year was 68,154 with an average attendance of 42,849 for the first term and 42,418 for the second term. The percentage of attendance for the first term was 69.33; for the second term 63.21. The greatest number of teachers employed was 1984. Salaries are slowly but steadily increasing. The most marked increase has been for first class male teachers. In 1900 their average salary was \$439.31; in 1910, \$663.28, a gain of \$223.97.

The number of school districts in New Brunswick is 1,535; and 107 of these have graded schools of two or more departments in which are included 45 per cent. of all pupils enrolled in the province. In the second term of 1910, there were reported 201 districts without schools.

The editorial writer of the *St. John Daily Telegraph* estimates that in each of these districts there are twenty children—or 4,000 in all—growing up without the benefit of an education! This is an exaggeration. Many of these districts have had no schools for years past and are practically dead districts. There are thirteen of these in St. John County and nineteen in Charlotte County. There are probably not 400 children in these 201 dead or thinly populated districts, and the greater part of them get their schooling in the neighboring districts. These "dead" districts should be incorporated with others or buried out of sight, so that no wrong conclusions may in future be drawn.

Dr. Carter thinks that a considerably better showing in school attendance would be reached if teachers could be obtained with more facility. In spite of the large number of graduates from the Normal School last year—the largest in its history—the supply is not yet equal to the demand.

The Chief Superintendent justifies the proposed increase of salary to the inspectors, urges greater attention to music, drawing and agriculture in the schools, the assigning of Latin and algebra to the high school and the substitution for them in grades VII and VIII of agriculture and more English and commercial subjects.