

It is to be desired that before the end of another session of the N. B. Provincial Legislature that the qualifications of the teachers' representative to the senate of the university will be modified. It should not be confined to graduates of a university or universities, but should be open to all teachers of say five years' experience. If this or some enlargement of the present qualification is not made, the great majority of the teachers will cease to take any interest in the election, and not a few have advocated that no candidate be selected under present conditions.

Conference of N. S. High School Teachers.

In connection with the Provincial Educational Association the Superintendent of Education held two important conferences with the high school teachers. Many of them were hoping for a reduction in the amount of work in the high school course. The desire of every high school teacher to pass as many of his pupils as possible naturally makes him anxious for an easier course of study. Where there is so much competition it is difficult for even the broadest minded teacher to remain unbiassed. Pupils are admitted too young or without the necessary groundwork, and of course many of them fail from that cause,—not necessarily because the course is too difficult.

After hearing the Superintendent's explanations, the inspectors at least seemed to favor the higher standard. Partial relief, however, was promised in the form of an increased number of optional questions at the provincial examinations. All were agreed that six papers for an examination day produced too great a strain upon many of the younger candidates.

The Annual School Meeting.

The annual school meeting day in New Brunswick fell this year on Thursday, October 10th. Just why Thursday has been appointed school meeting day is not clear. It would be much better Monday or Friday, than coming in the middle of the week. Teachers very often take the opportunity afforded by the annual meeting to visit their homes, losing Friday, to be made up for on some Saturday. Saturday teaching is never popular, and the attendance on that day is rarely up to the average. By all means let the day for the annual meeting be changed.

It may be well, while speaking of the annual meeting, to refer to a few of the fallacies that are very common in conducting them. It is thought why is not clear that seven ratepayers are necessary to elect a trustee. As a matter of fact only three are necessary, one to

act as chairman, one to act as secretary, and a third to move resolutions which may be seconded by the secretary.

It is very common for trustees, before their full time has expired, to resign at the annual meeting, and for others to be elected in their stead. Such a resignation is not lawful. A trustee may resign only with the consent of his co-trustees and the inspector. It is not unusual for the annual meeting to vote to limit the time during which the school shall be operated—say for six or nine months. Such a motion is distinctly out of order, as that is entirely the prerogative of the trustees.

The secretary of the board is by law the secretary of the meeting. If the secretary does not give bonds, the trustees are his bondsmen. A secretary may be removed at any time by a majority of the trustees, and the secretary is the servant, not the master, of the board. He of himself has no authority to hire a teacher, and cannot collect or pay money without the order of the board. When he retires the school manual, school boundaries and other property of like nature, should be handed over to his successor, and not retained as his own private property.

Appeals to the inspector against the proceedings of the annual meeting should be made immediately after. Fault-finders should go to the meeting to ventilate their grievances and not spend the rest of the year in complaint. This is precisely what they will not do.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

I have before had occasion in these "talks" to advocate a stronger professional feeling among teachers, and instances in which it seems to be entirely lacking come continually to my notice. In all learned professions a certain etiquette is observed, and any violation of it very properly meets with direct censure.

It is considered non professional, for instance, for a physician to openly criticise another's mode of treatment or to procure employment under established rates. The same is true of the legal profession. How is it with teachers? How often do we hear teachers openly condemning the work and methods of their predecessors. It is certainly very bad taste, and may well be described as non-professional.

But there is a worse feature than this. Many teachers are given to complaint because of the inadequate salaries often given in rural districts, and yet some of these same teachers are found applying for schools at a lower rate of salary than the teachers in charge, and that in the face of the fact that the same teachers have not resigned. Instances are not rare in which such non-professional conduct has caused the discharge or resignation of the incumbents and the decrease of the