

established in convenient localities for the convenience of the younger pupils. But in some central locality there should be a department for grade seven upwards. This plan is being tried extensively in the United States and it is found to have many decided advantages, not the least being its economy. An amendment should be introduced into our school law with this end in view. We hope to hear further from Principal Haines and other teachers and trustees interested.

COMPOSITION IN THE SCHOOL.

Among the subjects that are at present demanding increased attention on the part of the teacher is that of composition. Too frequently the subject is assigned one hour or less per week, and then a set exercise is given, or the pupil is required to write an essay at home on some given subject. The following is but a sample of much of the composition that is done in our schools. The subject given was a letter describing the holidays. The pupil was thirteen years old.

_____, August 29 1893

Dear Friend

As I was only a week in the country I have not much to tell. I was in P_____ visiting at my Aunt & Uncle's. I revelled in gathering the eggs. I visited a mill that was there, and saw the wheat being ground. But the crowning thing of all was the on the hay from the hay-field. I was picking berries and enjoyed it very much. I saw a peacock, but he did not spread his tail much to my regret.

Farewell _____

"My holidays are o'er, and
school begins one more"

This assuredly shows a lack of good teaching of composition. It is not a solitary case — many such could be produced if sought for.

If in every recitation incorrect expressions were watched for and corrected; frequent short exercises given in the formation of short sentences; care being taken in the matter of form, punctuation and capitalization, such glaring errors as are found in the specimen given would be much rarer than they are.

DARTMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD.

The committee on school management reported, recommending that the vertical system of writing be introduced into the schools, in the section from grade 1 to 7 inclusive, and that the teachers be instructed to make themselves familiar with it, and to use it in all writing seen by the pupils on the blackboard or otherwise. The committee was convinced that not enough attention is paid to writing in the schools, especially in the higher grades. The committee

recommended that the principal be instructed to see that more care is taken to secure better writing. Copy books for the vertical system can be procured for six cents; which is somewhat cheaper than the copy books now in use.

The kindergarten is over crowded and no more pupils can be received at present; at an early date another kindergarten will be a necessity.

The high school numbers 50 pupils. The principal reported that the one session is a great improvement in this department.

Truants seem likely to become extinct before many months, so direct, effective and vigorous are the measures taken against them. The boys have no time to make calculations as to whether they are going to have enough fun out of their mitching (playing hookey) to pay for the penalty. Deferred punishment does not make them presumptive. This is a case in which the law's delays do not harass the virtuous souls of those who invoke its aid.

It would be well for other towns desirous of extending the benefits of their common schools to those most needing them, to study and adopt the Dartmouth Compulsory school act.

N. S. NORMAL SCHOOL.

The formal opening of the Normal School of Nova Scotia took place on the 25th of October. Owing to the heavy rain which prevailed during the whole day the attendance of the general public was small. Notwithstanding the storm, however, the clergy and other leading professional men and citizens of Truro were well represented, and the Chief Superintendent of Education was present from Halifax. About one hundred students were in attendance. Every county in the province had its representative there with the exception of Guysboro. Kings, of educational fame, occupied the place of honor, followed closely by Colchester and Pictou. Principal Calkin in his opening remarks drew attention to one great change in the character of the students since the days of the late Dr. Forrester whom he quoted. Then it was expected that the local constituency should be the main supply of the institution. Now in every respect it was a provincial college. Now it is not a High School with some pedagogical instruction in the curriculum, such as many Normal Schools yet are. These hundred students come here with their High School certificates in their hands showing that in the opinion of the Board of Provincial Examiners their scholarship for their respective grades is already approved. This will not be understood to mean that during their attendance here they will not have the