

of the facts alleged, may either deal summarily with the case or make such order as may seem to him proper, with or without costs. It may be that the secretary has a well-founded claim against the district. If so, he is in no way justified in offsetting it by illegally holding the school property. He has his remedy after giving up the papers, just the same as before. At any time, save after the annual meeting, when the accounts are supposed to have been audited, it is advisable for the secretary, before giving up the books, to have them audited.

Can the district school house be used for any other purposes than school purposes?—This is a much debated question. It is thought by many that a majority of the people in the district can rule in this matter, and by others that the consent of the trustees, or a majority of them, is sufficient. The best informed in this matter concur in the opinion that the school house is held in trust by the trustees to be used for school purposes only. Any other solution of the matter would be fraught with danger in many districts where sectarian feeling is strong and where the house is used for religious purposes. At the same time it often happens that the school house is the only available building for holding religious services and other meetings, and any deprivation of its use would entail hardship and cause discontent. Where there are no objections raised in the district to so using the school house, it is perhaps not advisable to depart from the usual practice prevailing in the past; but it is always advisable that the trustees should obtain the names of parties willing to become responsible in case of any damage being done to school property.

The former articles on this subject have been very interesting, no doubt, to many of your readers. In the next issue a series on the "Teacher" will be begun.

[To be continued.]

Inspectoral Notes.

Inspector Carter will visit the schools in the western part of St. John County and the eastern portions of Charlotte County, N. B., during the months of January and February.

Inspector Smith will enter upon his inspection of the schools of Albert County, N. B., this month, beginning with the parish of Alma, thence to Harvey, Hopewell, Hillsboro and Covedale.

Mr. E. L. O'Brien, of the N. R. Normal School staff, has been appointed Inspector of District No. 2, embracing the counties of Kent, Victoria, Madawaska and a portion of Carleton, N. B., in place of Mr. Boudreau, resigned.

Means to Ends.

Every one who has given any attention to the work of the common district schools of his country, if no course of study has been followed, knows that they are woefully deficient in gradation and organization, due to the fact that they have been without any systematic plan of work, and that no record has been kept of the standing or advancement of the pupils.

One of the greatest evils in our country schools is the constant change of teachers. In the absence of any course of study in the schools, each teacher is free to arrange a course of study to suit himself, and each change of teachers brings also a change of plan in the school; pupils "are turned back" to pass over the same ground, term after term, until they lose all interest, and not infrequently contract a positive dislike for school and school work—hence this great irregularity of attendance in our country schools.

These evils may, in a large measure, be avoided—by placing in the schools a carefully arranged course of study, and requiring a record of the progress and standing of each pupil. The defective work in the country schools is not so much due to the incompetency of teachers or to neglect on their part, as it is to the absence of any *system, incentives, or end in view*. The Course Study provides for a number of years' work for each pupil (who can be promoted as he progresses), and, as an incentive for faithful work, presents a definite end to be reached.

A Gifted Mayor.

The Hon. Charles D. Jacob, Mayor of Louisville, Ky., has enriched English literature by the issue of a legal document, that is the most original and unique ever published. In the course of his duty as mayor, it devolved upon him to issue a proclamation announcing to the public the passage of an ordinance by the City Council, prohibiting under specific pains and penalties, the running at large of horses, mules, cows, sheep, hogs and goats in the city of Louisville. Not being familiar with the legal phraseology that is usually employed in the drawing up of such documents, he wrote out one which he considered most suitable for the occasion, and here it is:

"No more, as the 'curfew tolls the knell of parting day,' will be witnessed the poetic, but unbusinesslike procession of 'lowing herds winding slowly o'er the lea,' marching steadily and triumphantly upon the green swards and parterres of brilliant flowers belonging to defenceless citizens. A thing of the past will be the insolent goat that, stalking with odorous tread, has bidden defiance to trembling mortals. Nevermore, 'fleece as white as snow,' will Mary's little lamb follow her to school, but, as 'a tender grace of a day that is dead,' will it linger, a sad, sweet idyl in the mind of the 'oldest inhabitant.' Henceforth the exotics of the rich will 'flourish as a green bay tree,' and the poor man will not have to lessen his already scanty means by building stockades to protect his little ones from roving bands of beasts."

We doubt whether there is to be found in the