

Teachers' Meetings.

For the purpose of promoting the efficiency of the teaching service, the school law makes provision for the holding of Teachers' Institutes once a year in each inspectorial district in Nova Scotia and in each county in New Brunswick. Both as a sign and a cause of educational life the institute is important. In a new country like ours where the most of the teachers are inexperienced, it seems strange that there could be any district in which even as many as ten teachers could be found who are not anxious to meet for a few days each year to discuss methods of teaching and the educational questions which are so absorbingly interesting to the best teachers in every country. It would be thought that teachers, like members of every other profession, would like to see and know each other, to act in concert on matters of common interest, and to receive mutual encouragement.

As a rule it is the best teachers who make the greatest sacrifices to be present at teachers' meetings, to prepare papers and model lessons, and to take an active part in the discussions.

Dr. Klemm, after describing a teachers' meeting in Germany, says: "In the face of such literary activity, such thorough scientific discussion, I heave a sigh thinking of the peaceful mental slumbers of thousands of our American teachers." These thoughts were suggested by contrast as we witnessed with pleasure the animated and profitable discussions at some of our recent teachers' institutes.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS AND TRUSTEES.

Another year has ended. The past one has had its changes, some no doubt for the better, and others undoubtedly for the worse; but, taken all in all, the schools are in advance of the past, with much to undertake for the future, and let us all faithfully do our part of the work.

I notice, as usual, some districts advertising for teachers, but, in as far as my acquaintance with them extends, they are those of the more remote and least desirable districts, and teachers would do well not to apply for such positions without inquiry, else they may find themselves in very backward or troublesome districts. It is said that some secretaries advertise in order to receive a lot of letters and become the possessors of a supply of enclosed stamps. This is too contemptible to be credible, but it is certain that far too many of them are in the habit of not responding, even though stamps are enclosed for a reply. This is becoming so common that some

remedy should be devised to check it. I can only suggest that we ask the REVIEW to come to our assistance, and publish the names and addresses of such secretaries.

Discourtesy is not confined, however, to trustees. I have heard, as usual, of teachers who have given up one school for another that they considered better, and secured consent to be released from their engagement afterwards, or not at all. It is true there was no written contract, but a teacher's word should be as good as her bond. Some teachers, too, have not been courteous enough to respond to the inspector's well meant efforts to secure them positions or to notify him whether he had been successful. By reason of this some districts have not been able to secure teachers to begin work at the first of the term. There ought to be some means of checking this. One thing is moderately certain—the inspectors will not be inclined to go to as much trouble or the same teachers again.

"Teacher," in this issue, asks how trustees are to be taught their duty in connection with the contract, and asks whether they are careless or ignorant? In some cases she should have added another adjective a little stronger and shorter than economical. It is somewhat peculiar that even trustees of long experience can not be brought to believe that teachers are not paid for holidays, and they resort to all sorts of contrivances to prevent them from being so remunerated. An example of this is seen in engaging by the month and not opening school until Sept. 1. One trustee, who stated that he had served seventeen years, wrote not long ago to one of the newspapers complaining of teachers riding bicycles and otherwise enjoying themselves during the holidays, time that he claimed was paid for by the district. This trustee must have sworn many times during his period of office to the number of teaching days for which the teachers were paid, and on the strength of this the government paid for that many days and no more.

It may be well for teachers and trustees in New Brunswick to take notice that third-class teachers are not to be employed in districts with a valuation of more than \$1,500; that no widows are exempt from school taxes, and that trustees continue in office until their successors are appointed. Only one assessment can be made in each year on the same rate. This means that, though there may be two assessments or more as the result of that many meetings, the amount voted, say, at the annual meeting can not be assessed at different times. Only one poll can be assessed in one year, which, for purposes of assessment, extends from October to October.