

when united may have one or more settlements running three or four miles from the school house, may obtain some extra funds which will enable some one to drive the distant children to school—at least to school in the morning if not also back in the afternoon. It might be considered unfair to convey children $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to and from school at the public expense when those 2 miles distant would have to walk. If those much over 2 miles distant should be conveyed *one* way, it might be sufficient. In many districts of the province this can be done very cheaply, as it will not spoil a whole day for the horse and driver, and often it may be combined with mail or parcel and passenger carriage.

Before such consolidations are formed by the District school commissioners the Inspector should report on the approximate annual sum necessary to subsidize such conveyance as may be considered satisfactory to the section as a whole as well as to the "wing" specially interested. The law fixes the maximum grant; and the Inspector is the responsible organizer with whom the people of the section should confer.

Poor Sections. After the first day of August next [see Reg. 10 (a)], *poor* sections under certain conditions can draw 50 per cent. more from the municipal fund than other school sections; but the total money assessed on the section by the vote of its annual meeting and collected, must be as high a proportion of its property valuation as the average of the county. This is only fair; for it would be wrong to give extra help at the expense of others to poor sections which do not tax their own small properties at the average rate. In some cases, possibly, the poll tax alone may be greater than the average rate—which includes as a rule both the poll tax and the balance of the vote assessed on property.

Then again, no section less than four miles in diameter can be put on the "poor" list if there is a possibility of enlarging it by annexing adjacent territory, and reorganizing the neighboring sections.

Classification of School Sections: It was found impossible to define the character of school sections in terms of their wealth, number of pupils; and general culture, which would be equally satisfactory in different quarters of the province. Hence it was decided to allow each Inspector to work out a standard suitable to the conditions of each inspectorial division as directed in Reg. 15 (e). First class sections shall then not be able to employ teachers lower than first class at the head of their schools if such teachers are to be had. Likewise, second class sections cannot employ lower than second class teachers.

School Sections to be Absorbed: When a school section on account of its weakness, smallness, or general default of its ratepayers, cannot afford to employ a teacher, or do not open a school, the Inspector should notify the section that at the next meeting of the District Board of School Commissioners, its absorption into adjacent sections may be considered and enacted.

Minimum Salary: Any section offering a teacher of class D less than \$100, of class C less than \$140, or class B less than \$180, may presumptively be considered as coming under the class of sections having no right to a separate corporate existence; and should be inspected with a view to decide whether the interests of education would not be better served by having it absorbed into the adjacent sections, thereby strengthening them.

Teachers are recommended not to accept a lower salary than this minimum without consulting the Inspector, who will be able to understand the reasonableness of the particular case under what may be peculiar conditions.

Three or more of the best counties last year gave on the average more than the following salaries in round numbers to their female teachers: Class D, \$130; Class C, \$170; Class B, \$200.

The averages of male teachers' salaries in three or more best counties last year were more than the following figures: Class D, \$150; Class C, \$200; Class B, \$400.

In one or two counties the average salaries were considerably over these figures which are nearer the proper *minima* of salaries than the provisional ones suggested last year, and given first above. Pages 22 and 23 of the last Education Report show the counties which are to be complimented on the public-spirited manner in which salaries are advanced.