

HANTS COUNTY.

J. D. MACGILLIVRY, Inspector.

REVEREND SIR,—

I beg leave to submit the following notes,—in addition to the abstracts and tables previously forwarded, in which all the details of Statistics will be found :—

Very few of the Schools in the County have been inspected during the year, till towards the end of August,—the time at which I entered upon my labors. The Blank Returns for the Term had not been forwarded to the Trustees or Teachers, nor were the Blanks received for some time after I entered on the work of Inspection. As soon as they came to hand I forwarded an A and B to every section on the list. One hundred and five Schools sent back returns in due time, which, after examination, were submitted to the Board and signed. No Report of any kind was received from East Uniacke, Renfrew and Birch Brook in East Hants, from Lakelands and Crystal Wave in West Hants, or from Border Sections Welton (East and West Hants) and Halfway River (Hants and Kings). I passed through Walton and by Crystal Wave in the course of my inspection tour; there was no School in either, and I presume the others were in the same condition.

As the work of the Term remained still to be overtaken at the date of my appointment, I lost no time in beginning inspection. The weather was very favorable. By prosecuting the work five days in the week, and often from 9 A. M. till 5 o'clock P. M., I visited and examined 75 of the above 105 Schools before the end of the Term. I visited a few other Schools and Sections; but owing to the hours of dismissal in two cases, and the absence of the teacher for the day in one, the Schools were not examined. The School at Upper Rawdon was closed on account of the illness of the Teacher at the date of my first visit, but was afterwards found in operation, and inspected. The Sections unvisited were those in the Southern part of the County—along the Halifax Boundary from Beaver Bank westward, and towards the Lunenburg line; also those between the Head of Kennetcook and the Maitland and Shubenacadie Road, the Gore Schools between the Rawdon and Upper Kennetcook Settlements, the two in Nine Mile River; also several schools along the line between the Eastern and Western Districts—30 in all.

In examining the Schools I confined myself principally to the Branches—Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Grammar. This course I pursued, mainly, in order to keep before the Teachers the great importance which we attached to these in the work of the Common School. The conclusion to which I was led, so far as the Teachers are concerned, may be expressed generally by stating that Grade B Teachers understood their work and gave general satisfaction; that the same may be said of Grade C Teachers, who have been in the profession and its work long enough to gain considerable experience. A good many of Grades D and E are also giving fair satisfaction to their employers. Of course very much cannot reasonably be expected of them, and they are not supposed to be employed in strong advance sections. I have learned to be suspicious of Grade C males who are quite content to remain in this Grade; and as for Grade D males who remain long in this "place of breaking forth" into the profession, I would have them drummed out of the service. Some of the Schools of Grades D and E females make a better show comparatively than some of those of Grade C teachers. This is no doubt