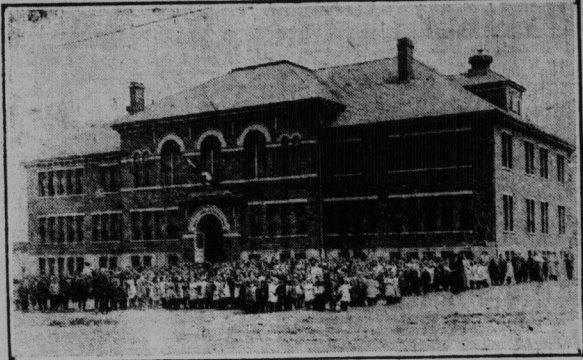


# Dr. W. S. Carter Reviews the Year In Public School Activities

Superintendent of Education Discusses in An Interesting Manner the Work Along Different Lines—Conditions Generally are Favorable but there Still are Weaknesses.

Education in this Province has made steady and substantial progress during the year. As I shall endeavor to point out, there have been many evidences of advancement, and while there is no retrogression in any important particular, it is not by any means claimed that material improvement could not or should not be aimed at in many directions. According to the revenues and resources, I think New Brunswick makes fairly generous, if not entirely adequate, support to education. It cannot be denied however that these revenues are not so extensive as in the case with some of the other provinces of the Dominion and if we are to keep up with the requirements of the times in such matter as vocational education, we must have the assistance of the Dominion, not only because of its paramount importance but because I think it has been conclusively demonstrated that the Maritime Provinces should be reimbursed for the lands in the North West which have been so liberally bestowed upon some of the newer provinces.

The school attendance as shown in our last report, was the best in the history of the Province, the same may be said as to regularity of attendance. As we do not increase as yet rapidly in population the showing is fairly satisfactory, though I doubt if the present scarcity of teachers continues, that we shall be able to show



West Highland School, Amherst

the same gratifying increases in the near future. While this showing is comparatively satisfactory it is not completely so, as an attendance of 60 or 70 per cent. shows a very great waste and ought to be greatly bettered. This could only be accomplished by a strenuous enforcement of the compulsory clause, which is not done except in St. John, Moncton and a few other places. In most districts the compulsory clause is ordered into effect with great unanimity, and with equal unanimity it is not enforced.

The supply of teachers has been barely equal to the demand. I need not point out the reasons for this, as they are sufficiently apparent. The remedy is equally apparent viz. to give our teachers salaries equivalent to those paid elsewhere, otherwise teachers will become scarcer and some schools will be closed in consequence. Scarcity of teachers warrants special hardship upon poorer and more remote districts. Third Class teachers are intended to supply the needs of such districts, and although there are restrictions they can not always be applied, if some of the richer districts claim their services on the ground that they are unable to obtain teachers of a higher class. While this claim is no doubt frequently genuine, it is frequently made to cloak parsimony, or tardiness in seeking a teacher at the proper time.

There have been many gratifying indications, shown by School Boards to meet the situation by granting substantial increases in teachers' salaries. This however is seldom done spontaneously, and teachers have been to blame in many localities in not putting an adequate value upon their services.

The Board of Education has arisen to its responsibilities in this matter by increasing the salaries of the teachers employed in the Model School, embracing grades from I-VIII. The principal now is paid \$1200, one teacher \$750 and two teachers \$700, each per year. While these salaries are not excessive they are probably better than are paid elsewhere in this province for work in the same grades. The scarcity of teachers is despite the fact that the attendance at the Normal School is larger than ever before, so large as to overtax its capacity. At the last examinations for license a larger percentage of teachers passed successfully than ever before. Judging from the slightly increased number of candidates for the entrance examinations during the present year there are not as many of our students as formerly seeking to become teachers.

The pension act is working satisfactorily though there are cases of hardship owing to the absence of a disability clause. The number of teachers having qualified is now about 30 and the amount paid nearly \$6800 yearly. Some are being added each year and since the adoption of the act there has been no increase in the number for any cause. Physical training has been given to practically all the teachers in the Province during the last four years. Some idea of the losses sustained each year as to teachers may be gathered from the statement that in the time stated we have trained approximately 2000 teachers. The total number employed in the province is about 1500. There is a depletion of about 1,200. In the face of depletion such as this it is a difficulty to add to our numbers.



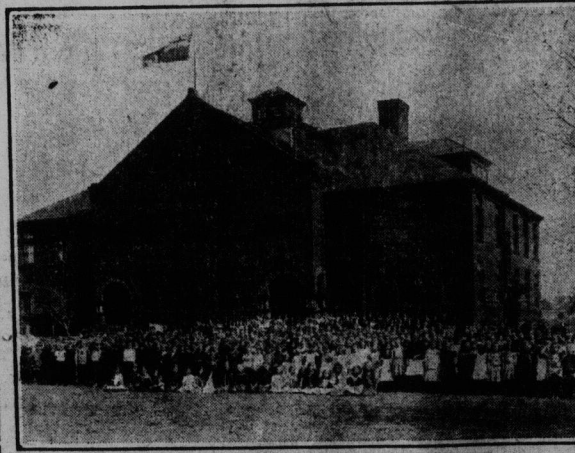
Public School, St. George

Education which while important is also expensive. A grant of \$200,000 was made during the year to the City of St. John in aid of technical evening classes in that city such a class was held during about six months, with, I understand, good results. In this matter we are already very much behind other provinces, notably Nova Scotia. When in Halifax a short time ago, I had the privilege of visiting the Technical school there which has a plant costing \$300,000 and there were evening classes numbering more than 600. Attention is being given to many branches. One afternoon class consisting of 40 or 50 women, were being instructed in cutting the fitting by the head of a dress-making establishment in the city. I was informed that they were mostly married women who could not leave their houses in the evening, and thus provision was being made for them in the afternoons. In no department of Education has more marked advance been made than in school buildings, and modern accommodation and sanitation.

Among the new school buildings recently erected may be mentioned, The Fisher Memorial School at Woodstock. This is one of the most modern and well equipped in the Province. It is a bequest to the town of Woodstock by the late L. P. Fisher, Esq., and his executors, A. B. Connell, Esq., and Col. F. H. Dibble. The building is of the character of the building erected and the time and effort they have given to insure thoroughness of work as well as comfort and convenience in all its appointments.

The new buildings at Campbellton, St. John (King Edward), St. Andrews, Ben and Apohaqui, are all of the best class, and serve admirably the purposes for which they are intended. The Manual Training and Home Science building in Moncton is the best of its kind in the Province. The trustees of Fredericton and Marysville have under consideration plans for new school buildings which are much needed in both places.

An annex to the Provincial Normal School is being erected and will be ready for use another year. The accommodation in the Normal School has been for some time inadequate to its growing needs and attendance. The Schools Savings Banks have been



Spring Street Academy, Amherst

annex will house the Model School departments and contain the Manual Training rooms. There will also be a large hall for physical training and general purposes. The school accommodation provided will be of the best character.

An agricultural school is nearly completed at Woodstock, also the gift of the late L. P. Fisher. Part of its is to be devoted to the use of the town for purposes of Manual training and Household Science, and the other part will be used by the Province for agricultural education.

Woodstock is, in consequence of these generous and useful bequests, in a better position than any other town or city in the Province, educationally.

The department of agriculture has in mind the erection of a building for educational purpose in Sussex, similar to that in Woodstock.

In all schools more attention is being given to cleanliness and sanitation though there is yet much room for improvement. The use of drinking fountains obtains in all our newer schools. Oil, oilbrushes, dustpans or damp sawdust are coming into more general use in cleaning and sweeping, while fresh air and sunlight are coming into appreciation and use to a much greater extent than formerly.

County Institutes have been held during the year in Kings, Charlotte, York, Westmorland, Albert, Restigouche, Northumberland and they will be held later in St. John and Carleton Counties. The interest in and attendance at these meetings have never been better in my experience.

An admirable feature of the Kings Co. Institute and one worthy of all imitation, is the trustees and ratepayers section. I have attended two or three meetings with this section with much profit and instruction. It would twice; but was acquitted both times.

I suppose you were presented at court while you were in London, she inquired. Yes, replied he, I was presented to hear the angels sing.

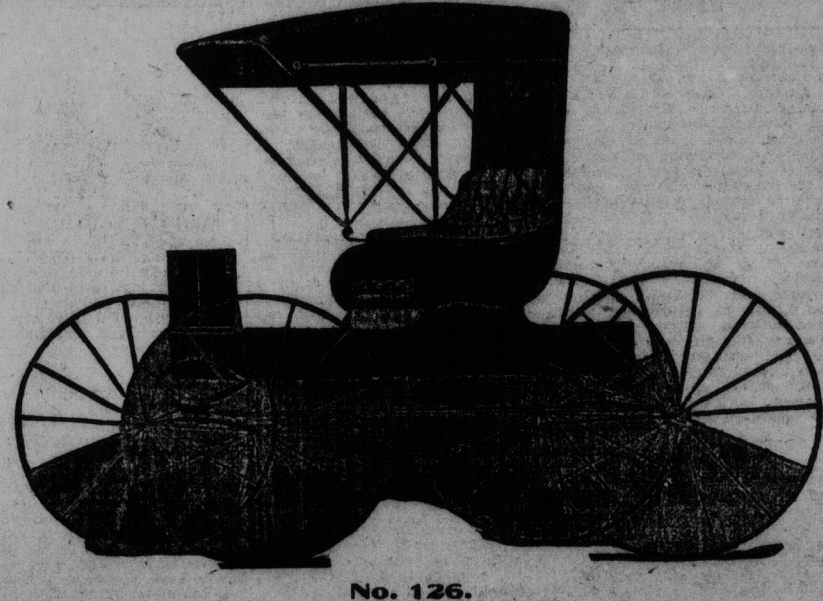
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