

necessity of the blackboard in teaching arithmetic, belongs to several decades in the past; to stand at the blackboard, before a class, to teach them vitally and inspiringly, belongs—well, to the new education. What a waste of time it is to prove that geography should be taught in connection with history, when with a class before the board at the institute, with chalk in hand, you could make every event, every place, a reality. Let us have more practice in teaching at the local institutes.

THE SUPPLY OF TEACHERS.

During the present term the supply of teachers in New Brunswick has been in excess of the demand. According to a reliable estimate made two or three years ago, about two hundred new teachers are required each year to equalize supply and demand. Judging from the number seeking admission to the Normal School this year, the visible supply more than equalizes the necessities of the service, and some teachers must go without employment. This is not desirable from many points of view—the chief being the inevitable reduction of salaries already too low; and salaries once reduced do not advance in response to scarcity of teachers. This has been apparent in the past. The Board of Education has it in its power to counteract, in some degree, an excessive increase of teachers, by withholding for a time the short term third class licenses.

At the present time there is a very large number of third class candidates in attendance at the Normal School. If these are all turned out Christmas, they will throw many teachers of higher license out of employment, as they will work for less salary. Many of the third class candidates would prefer to remain in attendance at the Normal School for the full term, and have the opportunity of working for a higher class. It is hoped that permission will be given to do this to all who desire it.

ILLITERACY.

The free school system of New Brunswick is now over twenty-two years old, and still we hear of young men and women who cannot read and write. Much of this illiteracy is no doubt confined to the French districts and the more remote English ones, which for a long time after the inception of free schools, failed to adopt their provisions. While this may account for by far the greater amount of ignorance, it can not be denied that it exists more or less in the cities and wealthy and populous rural districts. With the whole country studded with school houses, in which competent teachers are employed, and furnished with

the requisites for obtaining a good common school education, it is rather a scandal that any boys and girls are being allowed to grow up without participating in any degree in these advantages.

The responsibility for this state of affairs, no doubt, rests primarily with parents, but it reflects upon all interested in the welfare of the province. Are trustees, school officers and teachers doing all that can be done, in the absence of a compulsory clause, to remedy this defect? It would be well for teachers, especially, on entering upon their duties in districts, to make inquiries as to pupils who do not attend school, and without delay to visit the parents of such, and try to induce them to send to the school. Few parents are totally insensible to the welfare of their children, and many of them only require to be aroused from this species of indifference to make an effort to send them to school.

Let the missionary spirit prevail more among teachers. Do not let us fold our hands and wait for the enactment of a compulsory clause, but let us go to work, using all the opportunities we have, and while we may not be able to eradicate illiteracy, it may be materially decreased by such efforts.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

The annual school meetings in New Brunswick have been held, and as usual bring to the surface much ignorance of the school law. This, perhaps, is to be looked for because of the constant change in school officers, but there are many mistakes made that ought not to be made. Perhaps inquiries are not always made of the teacher in doubtful cases, but they are supposed to be learned in the school law and have stood the test of an examination upon it.

Inform your secretary that a copy of the minutes should be sent to the inspector, not to the education office. That it is not competent for the meeting to determine upon the length of time the school is to be kept in operation—that is a prerogative of the trustees. That a rate-payer may vote, even though his taxes have not been paid, unless challenged; he may even vote after taking the declaration, but there is then a penalty if he vote wrongfully. That the secretary of the school board is by law the secretary of the meeting. That the meeting may pass upon the accounts, although the auditor may not have reported. That the auditor's report must not necessarily be accepted, but the inspector may be asked to audit the accounts. That trustees cannot resign their office at the annual meeting, but only with the consent of their co-trustees and the inspector. That