

lay before our readers for their information some account of the school system of that Province and its workings. Although the views of the gentleman who kindly acceded to our request were presented with considerable keenness and vigor, they were considered, on the whole, as a fair statement of the Island's educational affairs. From private information that we have since had from residents of St. John's, these views met with considerable favor. We are ready to admit, however, that our own view of the case is derived from an experience of the excellent results that proceed from the workings of the free, undenominational system that prevails in our midst. With the results of such a system before us—a system that confers the greatest good upon the greatest number, which secures the best results with the least expenditure, we may be pardoned for not seeing the advantages which the advocates of a separate system claim for it, and to again express the hope that Newfoundland may before long cast off the present cumbrous system and adopt a system which is best judged by its results.

THE N. S. NORMAL SCHOOL.

This institution was formally opened on Wednesday last. On that day 125 students presented themselves for admission to the various classes. But as three following days, Thursday, Friday and Monday, were allowed to students to present themselves, this number, it was expected, would be largely increased. The usual number in attendance during recent years has been from 150 to 200, and this year the number is not likely to be much less, notwithstanding the recent elevation of standards of admission to the several classes. It may not be generally known that attendance at the N. S. Normal School is entirely voluntary, and that its graduates have no legal advantages in the profession over those who obtain their license after private study or a course at other institutions. This fact speaks volumes, not only for the large number who annually present themselves to partake of the advantages of the special training which the institution affords, but also for the splendid equipment and the excellent faculty which prepare student teachers for their work. We congratulate the faculty and students of this institution for the fine prospect of usefulness before them on entering upon a new year; and the substantial advantages that must result to the whole Province from work which, to judge from the past, has been so conscientiously and intelligently performed, can scarcely be estimated.

There has been added to an already well equipped museum a fine collection of Nova Scotian birds mounted by Mr. Walter Bishop of Kentville.

THE WINTER TERM.

"While opinions may honestly differ as to the most expedient calendar for our school year, all must admit that so long as the seasons and the general pursuits of the people retain their present order and character, the time covered by the winter term is to the older classes of our youth—particularly to the older boys—the most valuable part of the year, as affording them their most advantageous period of study. Indeed, to many it is *either this or nothing*. How important then that the opportunity be afforded for gathering in the largest possible results from these winter months of study! How utterly inexcusable and shameful the conduct of trustees, who by inattention to such little matters as doors, and windows, and floors, and stoves, and fuel, do their best to cheat the youth of their section out of their educational birthright! Such cases may be rare, yet the Inspectors' Monthly Report shows that they do occur. But let us limit ourselves more precisely to the past and say that they *have occurred*, while we express the hope that they *will never occur again*. By all means, trustees, get your school premises in good order for a good winter's work."—*N. S. Journal of Education*.

The above will commend itself to every one who wishes to see the youth of the country get a fair common school education. The winter certainly is the golden season for improvement, and the neglect to provide instruction, especially for the larger children of a district during that season, is a great injustice to them. Carelessness and indifference on the part of school trustees in regard to keeping schools open during the winter season is not peculiar to one Province. It is, unfortunately, too common. There are several districts not far from St. John in which it is the intention, we hear, to close the schools for the coming winter. If this be done it will be a great injustice to the children in these districts, and we hope the trustees may fully consider the results of such carelessness and indifference on their part, especially as the rate-payers in the districts referred to are sufficiently numerous and influential to keep well equipped schools in operation all the year. The one remedy for such a state of things is compulsory education.

THE P. E. I. CONVENTION.

The eighth annual meeting of the Teachers' Provincial Institute, of Prince Edward Island, was held at Charlottetown on 6th and 7th October. The number of members enrolled, 174, was greater than on any previous occasion; the attendance at all the sessions was large, and a more than ordinary degree of interest was manifested by the teachers in its proceedings. The papers which were read were upon the whole practical, and some of them bore evidence of careful preparation and much thought; while the