

certifying them to be good readers. If a certificate should turn out to be plainly inaccurate, there will be a prompt method of dealing with such a licensed teacher. "Good" reading is henceforward an essential qualification for every candidate going up to examination. There is no provision for bad readers, unless there are physical defects, upon the evidence of which the Education Department may adjudicate, as indicated in the prescribed form.

GOOD WRITING.—This is another essential qualification. It is not desirable to apply the full test to the hurried and sometimes excitable period of examination work. The test is, that the candidate should be able when at leisure to write a hand so legible and beautiful as would enable him to obtain a position as a book-keeper, so far as the writing is concerned. The very excess of writing in school is, when the general directions are ignored, the cause of its badness.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

This meeting was held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of October concurrently with the opening of the Normal School. The attendance was larger than last year, although the weather was stormy, and the Convocation room of the Provincial Normal School was generally as full as it comfortably could be from nine o'clock in the morning to ten or eleven at night, excepting an hour or two at noon and evening meals. The labor of the teachers in attendance was much greater than the ordinary routine of work in their schools for the same time would be. In addition to this they had to pay travelling expenses and the cost of board, so that trustees can easily see that their teachers in attendance were not taking a holiday. All this additional labor and expense was in the interests of the several schools represented, whether the section aided the teacher to attend or not.

In many places it will be found inconvenient to close the schools for a portion of the week for this association, but it is not easy to get a better time of the year. A usual time is the first week of the summer vacation. But now there are in Nova Scotia no less than two other teacher's meetings going on at the same time, the Summer School of Science and the Summer School of Agriculture. The executive are considering the advantages of the last week of the general summer holidays.

Inspectors, teachers and boards of trustees are asked to study specially the following subjects discussed at the meeting, namely, the best policy to pursue with reference to the question of a Provincial Reformatory for the education of incorrigible pupils who are not criminals, the formation of large union school sections under one board of trustees, and the super-annuation of old teachers. Legislation has been proposed on these subjects, but it is better that a thorough public consideration of the questions should be had before there is any attempt at the initiation of legislation which may have the tendency of committing some people prematurely to some particular plan.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS JOURNAL.

Owing to the desire to report the latest findings of the Council of Public Instruction, which met in the third week of October, the printing of the final forms of the JOURNAL was delayed to the end of the month.