

Gleaned from the New Brunswick Inspectors' Reports.

There is a strong feeling in these three counties (Northumberland, Gloucester, and Restigouche) that the summer vacation should be changed or extended so as to include the first two weeks in August. The people will not send their children to school during this time, and the teachers are compelled by the present regulations to be at their posts. A two weeks' extension of the summer vacation would meet the case.—*Inspector Mersereau.*

I have long held the opinion and still think that the evil of irregular attendance might be at least mitigated by the teacher. A friendly call on the parents of the children who do not attend regularly and a few words judiciously spoken will often be the means of securing the attendance of these pupils and will generally result in the establishing of a more friendly relation between parent and teacher, thus securing the co-operation of the parent which amply repays the teacher for all the trouble she has taken.—*Inspector Smith.*

A large number of schools have been furnished with fairly good libraries, and a good many more have signified their intention of doing so. It would seem necessary that lists of suitable books should be furnished those districts which intend purchasing libraries, as occasionally one meets with books that are hardly suited for the purpose for which they were purchased.—*Inspector Bridges.*

Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining trained teachers for the poorer schools in remote districts. Our people are not able to pay salaries that will induce the cleverer and more ambitious of our young people to remain in the school service, consequently many enter other professions more satisfying to their ambition or more congenial to their tastes. During the year my inspectorate lost many promising teachers, who took up other work or emigrated to other countries where the remuneration promised to be more satisfactory.—*Inspector Mersereau.*

I am able to report, this year, a marked improvement in many of the districts. Buildings have been repaired and painted; new furniture of an improved type has been introduced, and needed apparatus has been procured. I have been much pleased with the prompt attention given by many districts to the carrying out of my recommendations in these particulars.—*Acting Inspector Whelpley.*

There are, of course, some *working* teachers, who perform the work of arbor day honestly, and the evidence of their faithfulness may be seen in the neat yards, flower beds and growing shrubs and trees around the school-houses.—*Inspector O'Brien.*

St. John having all its schools graded, and paying the highest salaries in the province to its teachers, should be fairly expected to secure the best teaching talent obtainable. I doubt whether all the appointments made are in the best interests of the service. There are too many young teachers holding second class licenses, and having had little or no experience, being added to the staff. Some of these teachers do fairly well while others are failures. They would all be the better of a little more experience acquired in the less difficult country schools. * * * A first class license means one of two things—either two years experience in teaching or superior teaching ability. No amount of experience will entitle a teacher to undergo examination for first class unless she is certified to as having the necessary skill. It may not follow certainly that a first class teacher will always do better work than a second, or even a third class teacher, but the probability is in favor of the first class teacher, and the results justify it.—*Inspector Carter.*

With regard to high school work and results, we are of opinion that whilst there is much in the course to commend it to general favor, some modifications and additions looking to a more practical outcome, would greatly improve the character of the work in our schools. In a commercial centre like St. John, it is important that branches of study should include such subjects as will fit the graduates of our high schools for a practical business life. The widening of commercial lines of work by the introduction of type-writing and stenography would serve a valuable purpose in this connection.—*Chairman H. J. Thorne, St. John.*

OF EDUCATIONAL INTEREST.

For a long time a "crying need" in school work has been a series of wall maps for school use that should include the latest geographical discoveries and political changes and yet sell at a price so low that the ordinary public schools, graded or ungraded, can be supplied at slight expense. Such a series is now being put on the market. It consists of seven maps for public schools,—Hemispheres, North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and United States, and two maps for Bible study and Sunday school use, Canaan and Palestine. The maps are mounted in a variety of styles to suit purchasers. Published by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.

Kentville is moving in the matter of compulsory education.

In the English schools the government gives sixpence for each pupil receiving instruction in rote singing and one shilling per pupil for note singing.

California is in a bad way over her school text books. The state has undertaken to issue them all. The teachers are up in arms and allege that the books are the worst in use in any state in the union.