

262 days per annum, of six hours each, to be employed in teaching. We submit the question whether this arrangement will advance education in a satisfactory manner throughout the rural settlements of the country, where the children are generally strong and robust, and get plenty of vacations, which is the general subject of complaint—irregular attendance. The custom is too prevalent of keeping children at home one month, and sending them the next, dividing the

time about equal between unnecessary vacations and school attendance.

The time devoted to teaching under these regulations will not amount to more than half a year, per annum, at *eight hours a day*. There can be little doubt that if three hundred days of eight hours each, per annum, were devoted to teaching, especially in country districts, education would make greater progress than at present.

ALBERT COUNTY, N. B.

HAVING recently had occasion to make a survey of a part of the sea-board of this fine county, we were delighted with the present appearance and future prospects of wealth every where presented. The parts surveyed commenced at Mary's Point, Grindstone Island, the latter situated in Chignecto Bay, an arm of the Bay of Fundy; from thence along the northerly margin of the former Bay a few miles up the Peticodiac and Dorchester Rivers, both emptying into Chignecto Bay.

The landscape is beautiful—variegated with hills and vales, from the Shepody mountain, to the flat lands and rich marshes, and extensive sheets of tidal water, running to a height of 45 feet, with fleets of boats taking the fine shad for which these waters are distinguished.—*Agriculturally considered*, this county presents great advantages—several large tracts of rich marsh, one of which contains not less than ten square miles; the upland in front is of a fair quality, some of it very good; and the interior, where extensive settlements are made, the land is excellent. The people live principally by farming, the safer calling, especially during these times of commercial depression. The farms and farm buildings every where present the appearance of industry, neatness, and taste; and the large tracts of good land yet unsettled, present the prospects of houses for a large population.

Geologically and mineralogically considered, this county is not behind any county of its size in the lower provinces.

The coal, so called by the legal courts, or *asphaltum*, as contended for, or *albertite*, locally so called; or *asphaltic coal*,

by some so called, is one of the geological wonders of America. Its anomalous position, its gas and oil producing qualities, render it a commercial boon; and its fossil fishes, etc., with which the museums of America are supplied with the curious. This mine is situated near the northern margin of the Shepody mountain,—the material is brought by railroad, five miles, to the Peticodiac river, from where it is shipped to the States, and towns of the lower provinces. The mine is opened to the depth of 460 feet, and 800 feet horizontally.

In addition to this valuable deposit, and not more than four miles southerly therefrom, and about three miles from a place of shipment, is an inexhaustible mine of the best and richest *manganese* yet discovered on the American continent. It has been worked to a limited extent. Add to these stores of mineral wealth, mountains of gypsum of excellent quality, convenient for shipment; and again, add extensive districts of every variety of free-stone of the best quality, out of which, along with the free-stone of Dorchester river in Westmorland, the principal buildings in the neighbouring States are constructed. Competent authorities have pronounced the free-stone in this section the best yet discovered, in this part of America, to resist weight, retain beauty and durability.

Looking at the contorted and upheaved character of this section of New Brunswick, and the variety of useful minerals already discovered, and the limited explorations yet made, it is impossible to say what amount and variety of mineral wealth is yet in store for the inhabitants of this fine county. Geological explorations as yet have only been casual, and