

dren. Here is a fine field for the exercise of educational, political or social influence, come from where it may, in order that the people may be led back to their former and better way of thinking.

Beautiful furniture for schools and lecture rooms is being imported into this Province from Ontario, and at rates, it is said, considerably lower than what similar articles can be produced for amongst us. This advantage we owe to Confederation, to the great Intercolonial Railway, and to the removal of all commercial restrictions among the united Provinces.

The numerous friends of the Rev. Dr. Coster, principal of St. John Grammar School, will hear with deep regret that he has been laid aside for several weeks by severe illness from the active duties of his profession. They will also, we are sure, unite with us in the sincere and earnest hope that he may soon be restored to health and strength, to take a fresh start in the career to which he has so long and so faithfully devoted himself.

The University of New Brunswick is this year in a very flourishing condition. The attendance is considerably in excess of the average of recent years. Its staff of Professors as a whole will compare favourably either for learning or ability with the staff of any similar institution on the continent. In all material appliances also the college is remarkably well equipped, but particularly in the department of Science, over which Prof. Bailey has so long and ably presided. On the 14th, inst., the students and their invited friends held a conversazione in the University, which all accounts agree in describing as a marvel of refined enjoyment. Remuneration of this elevating character have not only the sanction of the President, Dr. Jack, but are made to form a part of his enlightened administration. Long may he continue to fill his responsible position with the dignity and success that have marked his protracted connection with the institution.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

From the Pacific Province we learn that the Christmas examinations in the Public and High Schools in Victoria passed off satisfactorily and well. Those of Nanaimo and New Westminster also made a creditable showing. In the outlying districts, so far as heard from, the last school term seems to have been a very successful one. Since reopening on the 7th of January complaints have been made respecting want of room in the new school building, which a short time ago was considered by many to be quite beyond the educational requirements of Victoria for years to come. Increased accommodation must now be devised.

The Principal of the Victoria Public School (Boys' Department), C. C. McKenzie, M.A. *Cantab*, was the recipient of a handsome epergue from his senior class. The presentation at the close of the Christmas examination was an interesting and profitable occasion to all concerned.

Cache Creek Boarding School is again doing good work among the isolated families of the interior. In that portion of the country, proverbial for expensive living, the children are collected together from hundreds of miles of territory and boarded for about eight dollars per month, which with the government appropriation for teacher and matron cover the expenses of the establishment.

Provision is now being made for more frequent and thorough school inspection throughout the Province, and for several months the Deputy Superintendent of Education will be employed in that duty. Though the schools are "few and far between," yet reaching them is no easy task. On Vancouver Island, some twenty districts extend from Sooke to Camox, a distance of about 150 miles; while on the Mainland, the most remote of the twenty-five, namely, Stuart Lake, is nearly a thousand miles from the seat of Government.

The Superintendent of Education returned on the 14th of January from a three months' visit to the Eastern Provinces.

The sixth Annual Report on the schools of the Pacific Province, bringing educational statistics up to 31st July, 1877, has just come to hand. The number of children in attendance seems small when compared with the school population of the other Provinces; still the gratifying fact is fully shown, that average attendance has increased from 584½, in 1872-3, to 1,210½ in 1876-7. This increase has been steadily going on at the rate of 25 to 30 per cent. annually. Children of school age now number nearly 3,000. Of these, 1,888 have attended the Public Schools more or less during the year. Seventy-one teachers have been employed during the year, some of them, however, only for short periods. First-class A, 11; first-class B, 12;—an increase of ten during the year; second-class A, 13; second-class B, 10; increase, two; third-class A, 5; third-class B, 4; increase, 4; temporary certificates, 4; not certificated, 9—a

decrease of four. The great increase of first class teachers speaks well, not only for further efficiency in the schools, but for energy and perseverance among those who are thus working up in the profession. Salaries of teachers employed during the year amounted to \$36,314.98. Some of these were pupil teachers at low salaries, and others held appointments for short periods. The average salary is \$702.07 per annum; \$57.66 higher than last year. This increase is occasioned by the employment of a greater number of certificated teachers, and the salaries of High School masters being brought in. Highest amount now paid is \$125, and the lowest for qualified teachers \$50 per month. For the year under consideration, payments have been—one monthly salary, \$125; four, \$100; one, \$90; two, \$75; six, \$70; thirteen, \$60; one, \$55; twenty, \$50; two (uncertificated), \$40; and one junior teacher in Victoria, \$40. The cost of each pupil attending school some time during the year was \$22.68, for each one of the average, \$36. This includes the High School in Victoria. The *per capita* cost is \$1.38 less on the attendance, and \$5.22 on the average, than for the previous year. Irregular attendance detracts very seriously from educational results. This statistic for the Province is 37½ per cent. More than one-third, therefore, of all the energy put forth by teachers is wasted, and that proportion of the school grant expended to no purpose. The Superintendent gives teachers fair warning that failures to pass pupils for the High School will in the future be considered proof of inefficiency in imparting instruction. A trial has been made of awarding scholarships to teachers in training. This, however, has been discontinued, for the present, on account of the expense. A discontinuance of the Government School Book Depository is recommended, in order to avoid interfering with legitimate trade. The Ontario series of school books are used, and these are now sold by the booksellers at Eastern retail prices. Establishment of School Libraries, following in the wake of Ontario, is strongly recommended. Also evening school when practicable. A paragraph is devoted to "Cleanliness in School Houses," and slovenly teachers get a hint to be more careful of their personal appearance. The value of Public School property has increased from \$12,000 in 1872, to \$75,000 in 1877. Each of the 40 schools in operation is reported on, more or less favourably. At the commencement of the present school system in 1872 there were but 14 schools in all. Five new districts have been created during the year covered by the report. In closing his general report the Superintendent of Education says:—"The review of school work and school progress for the year is as satisfactory, and perhaps more so than for any former period in our educational history. By the establishment of a High School provision has been made for intermediate instruction in Victoria; but the fact must not be lost sight of that a similar institution must soon be inaugurated in New Westminster. A Provincial University also will speedily become a necessity if British Columbian youth are to be fully prepared for the various avocations of life, without going to other provinces and countries for the purpose of graduating in arts, law, and medicine." Statistical Tables, Rules and Regulations, Examination Papers, &c. &c., occupy Parts II. and III. of the Report. The most Western Province of the Dominion is evidently doing everything possible to extend and improve educational facilities; which in districts so sparsely settled and so far apart is a task of great difficulty, and one which involves no small expenditure.

FOREIGN.

The State Teachers' Association in Illinois approves of the co-education of the sexes.

The preparatory department of the University of Minnesota is to be abolished in June next.

At a convocation of the University of London in January a resolution admitting women to all the University degrees was passed by a vote of 242 against 182.

In the State of New York it has been proposed to amend the school law so that candidates for the office of trustee must pass an examination to show they are capable of filling the position properly.

In the United States the cost per head of education varies from \$18.62 in Detroit, to \$33.78 in San Francisco. In Boston it is \$31.40; in Chicago, \$20.06; in New Orleans, \$28.28, and in New York, \$29.88.

An organization to be called "the Home Education Society" is proposed in Milwaukee. It is to resemble in its work the Boston Society for the Encouragement of Study, and is to benefit those young men and women who have left school and desire to continue intellectual work.