

to two causes, the general improvement in business and the scarcity of teachers.

A few years ago we had in this district many more teachers than schools. This is no longer the case, and the change is largely due to the faithfulness with which our Board of Examiners carry out the Law with respect to the granting of Teachers' Diplomas. They require the candidates to be fully eighteen years of age, and will not examine them even if they lack but a few days of the required age. They are equally exacting upon other points, and the result is that they exclude very many who would formerly have been admitted.

This reduces the number of teachers, and, as a consequence, has increased their wages. In accordance with the recommendation contained in your circular of the 15th of November last, I have made a brief Report of the condition of the schools in their municipality to the School Commissioners, at each visit, in a Register kept at the office. In this way I can point out, confidentially, to the School Commissioners the relative merits of the several teachers employed by them, and can, through their co-operation, secure the employment of the most capable and deserving in the best schools, and secure the exclusion of those who are unfit for the work. These Registers furnish a very convenient medium of communication for giving hints to School Commissioners on various matters connected with the management of the schools.

I will now proceed to give a short sketch of the condition of the schools in the several municipalities.

COUNTY OF SHEFFORD.

Shefford.—This municipality has 15 Protestant Elementary School and a Model School; one of the Elementary Schools has not been in operation during the year, owing to the fewness of the scholars. These schools have been doing fair work. I should instance, as the best, Nos. 1, 6, 7, 17, and 24 of the Winter Schools, and Nos. 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 24 of the Summer Schools. Teachers have not been required to board around (except in two or three of the poorer districts), and the change is a manifest improvement. I have called the attention of the School Commissioners to the state of the school-house in No. 22, which is in a