

NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOOL REPORT.

In the report for 1913-14 of New Brunswick Schools, the Chief Superintendent, Dr. W. S. Carter, points out that this province cannot afford to make educational experiments, but must profit by the experience of others. To this end Dr. Carter has made and reported careful observations of school methods, both of organization and management, in other parts of Canada and in the United States, and these constitute a very interesting and useful part of the volume. Among other developments in education that impressed Dr. Carter as most worthy of attention are medical inspection in schools, the use of schoolhouses as social centres, the retention of the high school pupils, and vocational schools.

The report shows that there are over 70,000 pupils in the schools of the province. There were 1,922 schools open, and 2,032 teachers engaged, of whom only 201 were men. The Superintendent considers the increases in salary gratifying, and thinks there will be no disposition to reduce them.

Dr. Carter recommends—That trustees be required to obtain the sanction of the inspector for plans of new school buildings. That rural school grounds, where possible, should be not less than one acre in area. That each school district shall be permitted to elect at the annual meeting one or more representatives to Teachers Institutes, and to vote money for their expenses. That the Board of Education should be empowered to authorize the Inspector to act in the place of a School Board, in school districts where an acting board cannot be secured. These recommendations are in addition to those made in former reports, relating to taxation and to free text books.

The general impression gained from reading the report is very encouraging, and the reports of the several inspectors show keen interest and much practical attention to detail. Manual Training and Elementary Agricultural Education are making steady progress. The most important addition to buildings for educational purposes is the Normal School Annex, occupied in September, 1914.

Included in the report are reports of the University of New Brunswick, the Provincial Normal School, the schools for the Deaf and Blind, and an account of the Interprovincial Educational Convention in Halifax in August.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The Chinese administration announces that henceforth the City of Canton will be known as Shameen.

General Botha's campaign against German Southwest Africa is slowly progressing, and he has recently captured an important position which opens his way into the fertile interior of the country. The desert of shifting sand which had to be crossed by the union forces was the strongest defence of the Germans.

The demands of Japan for certain concessions in China have been peaceably settled; and if there was any danger of a rupture of friendly relations between them it has passed away.

A number of British and foreign vessels have been destroyed by German submarines in the Irish Sea and the English Channel since the eighteenth of February, when the Germans declared the coast waters of the British Islands a war zone and warned foreign ships to keep away. The sunken vessels were chiefly merchant steamers bound in or out of British ports, and in most instances their crews were given some chance to escape by taking to the boats. But this was not always the case. One passenger steamer was sunk with a large number of passengers on board, and more than one other had a narrow escape from being sunk without warning. Sinking merchant vessels and wantonly killing non-combatants is much like piracy; and the officers and crews of German submarines who have been rescued from the sea are held apart from other prisoners of war and not treated as honorable opponents. In reply to a German protest against this distinction, Sir Edward Grey has said that more than a thousand officers and men of the German navy have been rescued from drowning by the British, sometimes to the prejudice of British naval operations, but no case has occurred of any officers or men of the British navy being rescued by Germans.

Germany is said to be building submarines at Antwerp, which can only reach the sea by passing through Dutch waters. This and other indications seem to show that she plans to treat Holland as she has treated Belgium, and, by getting possession of both countries, to extend her North Sea coast from Denmark to the English Channel.

Eight warships of great size and power will soon be added to the Russian Baltic fleet.

It is announced at Ottawa that training camps for soldiers will be maintained all summer at Valcartier, Petawawa, Niagara and other points, including some point in British Columbia.

Two thousand five hundred Canadian nurses have volunteered for service in the war, and as many have been accepted as the British authorities asked for.

Canada has contributed two million dollars worth of food and clothing for relief work in Belgium.

It has only recently been announced to the general public that the battle of Ypres, (eepr), on the last day of October, was one of the most important of the great battles of this war; and may take its place in British history with the battles of Crecy and Waterloo, though no one realized its full importance at the time. The