

The evils resulting from frequent changes of teachers are very apparent. About *fifty* per cent of the teachers change their sphere of labor each year, and probably not more than *fifteen* per cent remain in the same sections longer than one year. Under existing conditions it seems difficult to obviate this unrest, which can in most instances be traced to the illiberal policy by which rate payers in many sections are governed. A remedy for this evil would be provided if larger sectional appropriations for school purposes were voted at the annual meetings, and if all teachers were to abandon the practice of underbidding one another for situations.—*Inspector Morse.*

Even those who do as well as can be expected and study hard to become teachers of the truest and best class, would, in my estimation, become so much sooner and at less expense to themselves, and far less to the schools on which they practice, by attending a good training or Normal school at the outset, than by teaching. Not more than half the teachers have a just appreciation of what good teaching means. There is an immense loss of time and energy along this line at the present time, and this must continue till attendance at the Normal school be made compulsory.—*Inspector Roscoe.*

I am of opinion that Mr. McKinnon, Beaver's Cove, C. B., has here laid down the nucleus of an agricultural school, which, with judicious nurture and generous encouragement may in a short time become an important auxiliary and feeder to the more pretentious institution—the Provincial school.—*Inspector McNeil.*

Arbor day is becoming one of our regular institutions. The day on which it is held is announced to each section by special circular, and where vandalism does not reign the day is kept with veneration—trees are transplanted and the school grounds decorated, or improved in some way. When I visit the schools in the following summer, I can always tell whether my suggestions have been carried out.—*Inspector Gunn.*

At present the school-room is regarded in most cases by all concerned, as a place for listening to recitations; the home, as a place for memorizing words, which, too often, are forgotten shortly after they have been "said." This is undoubtedly the great defect in our educational system—that, generally speaking, teachers are neither instructors or guides to their pupils, but mere hearers of "lessons." Pupils are not taught, but forced to learn by rote, and so given an actual distaste for books. Oral work, in other words, actual teaching, ought not only to be

encouraged but insisted on, and plenty of time for it allowed. The excuse almost invariably given at present for the neglect of nature lessons and other similar work prescribed by the course of study, is that the hearing of "recitations," from the numerous classes considered necessary, occupies fully the time of the teacher.—*Inspector MacLellan.*

The work of the institutes organized in the summer of 1891 for the study of natural science, was carried on as far as possible after the model of the summer school. The students listened to lectures, personally examined specimens of minerals, plants, and insects, and were questioned as to their knowledge on the results of their observations. In every case, care was taken to show how this knowledge, and especially the manner of acquiring it, could be utilized in the school-room.—*Inspector Lay.*

#### CURRENT TOPICS.

A *modus vivendi* similar to that of last year has been agreed upon between England and the United States in regard to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea. Great Britain has insisted upon the insertion of the clause, "That if the result of the arbitration be unfavorable to the United States that that country shall compensate the sealers of Canada who have suffered loss in consequence of having been deprived of the privilege of fishing."

The United States Government has awarded the families of the Italians murdered by the mob in New Orleans, \$25,000 damages.

The sailors of the Baltimore who were injured in the Valparaiso riot, have put in claims to the State Department of the United States, amounting to nearly \$2,000,000.

A revolt has broken out in Venezuela against the authority of President Palacio, who has committed many arbitrary acts. General Crespo leads the revolution, and has gained several victories over his opponent. Caracas is still held by Palacio.

Matto Grosso, one of the provinces of Brazil, has revolted. It is very remote, and the rebellion causes much uneasiness in Brazil.

The British Government has refused the request of Canada for powers to negotiate her own treaties in regard to trade and commerce.

Nearly all the countries of Europe have been greatly disturbed and alarmed by the work of anarchists. Many arrests have been made, and precautions have been taken to prevent further outrages. Dynamite has been the agent used by the anarchists, and several ghastly deeds have been committed.

The Republican Convention to choose a candidate for president is in session in Minneapolis. Secretary Blaine looms up as a possible candidate, and may defeat the aspirations of President Harrison for re-nomination. The Democratic Convention meets later in Chicago. The probabilities at present are strongly in favour of the nomination of Ex-President Cleveland. How is the President of the United States elected?