

the Commissioners, as formerly, they could give it when it would best suit the circumstances of each locality or section. For instance, they might divide it into two parts, giving a fortnight in May at planting time, and the other two weeks in August at hay making. In this manner I feel confident, from the knowledge I have of the registered attendance at different periods of the term, that a much larger attendance could be attained than is now made.

*Sections.*—There are one hundred and twenty (120) school sections in this County, of which one hundred and twelve (112) had school for the past term.

In order to give an intelligible idea of the character of our school accommodations, the following figures are appended.

No. of school apartments in the County—142; which may be classed as follows :—

20 Excellent.

40 Good.

27 Poor.

20 Very Poor.

*School Accommodations.*—In the matter of School Accommodation there is quite an improvement in a large majority of sections, but it is a matter of regret that there are yet many, too many, very backward. This would not be a matter of so much surprise were the sections poor, but when we find Section No. 1 occupying an old dingy shop for the infant apartment, it is indeed something to be wondered at.

No. 1 and 4 departments of Sydney Mines schools received a good coat of white-wash, which made a decided improvement in the internal appearance, but I understand from the Trustees that it is their intention to erect a new house at an early date.

*New Houses.*—Little Glace Bay completed a large and magnificent house with two apartments, well furnished with necessary apparatus.

Gabarus, at last, mainly through the energy and perseverance of Mr. Samuel Grant, finished a comfortable house with suitable seats, desks and apparatus. Louisburg West, Oakfield and Kehnyton Cove have erected new houses.

I regret to report that the school house of Forest Section, and of Long Island were destroyed by fire; the former early this Fall and the latter last Summer, and, painful to say, there is too much reason to believe that it was the work of incendiaries.

*Apparatus.*—A very considerable majority of our schools are pretty well supplied with the necessary apparatus, yet there is a great deficiency in many instances in the extent of Black Board Surface, and also in the supply of wall maps.

*Academy.*—This institution is now working well and is taken advantage of by many teachers from the country to qualify themselves for a higher grade of license. For further particulars I would refer you to abstract A and B already forwarded to your office.

I remain, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCKINNON.

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Superintendent of Education