

The following are the Inspectors for the year ending 31st January, 1880 :—

District No. 1.—The Superintendent of Education for Protestant schools.

District No. 2.—Rev. W. Halstead, Portage La Prairie.

District No. 3.—Rev. W. R. Ross, Campbellville.

District No. 4.—W. Hespeler, Esq., Winnipeg.

There was a very successful meeting of the Selkirk County Teachers' Association on Saturday, 5th July, at which Mrs. Chisholm, Miss Affleck, R. Browne, M.A., and others read papers. The meeting instructed the Management Committee to arrange for a conversazione to be held during examination week.

The public schools of the Province have just concluded the first term of the school year, and examinations have taken place in connection with a large number of them. The Winnipeg daily papers have given a good deal of space to the report of the examination of the city schools. They are being conducted in a very efficient manner, and there has been during the past term a marked increase in the attendance. The distribution of prizes took place on Friday, 11th July, and the attendance of prominent citizens and their interest in the proceedings were very gratifying to the teachers and friends of education.

The following special prizes were presented :—

Free Press Prize, \$30 cash, for highest general proficiency; won by Miss Estelle Roblin, of the Fifth Class.

Gold Medal, presented by the *Times*, for highest average in promotion examinations; won by Master Jacob Doupe, of the Fourth Class.

Prize (Chambers' Encyclopædia of English Literature) for the best essay on "What we owe to books," presented by Messrs. Parsons & Richardson; awarded to Miss Edith Belch, of the Fifth Class.

Prize for regular attendance (toilet set), to girls of the Fourth Class only; presented by Mr. James Stewart awarded to Miss Eliza Ellis, of the Fourth Class.

Nine prizes (handsome books) for good conduct, presented by the Inspector of city schools, Rev. J. F. German, M.A.; presented to: 1st, Ashael Adams, 2nd, Bella Merritt, both of the 5th class, Central School; 3rd, Maria Killoch, 4th class, Central School; 4th, Jessie McIntyre, 3rd class (girls) Central School; 5th, Arthur Chapman, 3rd class (boys), Central School; 6th, Maggie McLaren, 2nd class (girls), Central School; 7th, Harry Parr, 2nd class (boys), Central School; 8th, Wm. Archibald, North Ward School; 9th, Annie Spence, South Ward School.

The promotions were made upon the same papers as those from which the prizes were awarded, the pupils requiring 60 per cent. of marks to pass.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The school districts now number 45, and contain 51 Public Schools and one High School. The pupils enrolled during the year were 2,198, and the average daily attendance 1,395.5. The cost for each pupil on total attendance has been \$22.02, and that for each on average attendance \$34.69. The total amount expended in education during the year has been \$48,411.14. The total cost of education is borne by the general exchequer. The lately appointed Chief Superintendent of Education, C. C. McKenzie, Esq., suggests, in his official report, the devising of a plan by which at least some portion of the cost might be borne by the several electoral and school districts directly benefitted. He says, "Under the present mode of support, besides the want of self-reliance thereby encouraged, a carelessness in taking advantage of the opportunities conferred is easily observable on scanning the percentages of non attendance and irregularity. The school costing the parent little or nothing, is undervalued and consequently neglected."

The inspection of the schools is not so thorough as it should be to insure efficiency, but the character of the country must bear the blame for this, except in the cases of sections in the centres of civilization. The examination of candidates for admission to the High School is now the only really comparative test of greater or less efficiency as between school and school, and also the only test by which it can in any way be predicted of a school whether it is efficient or not.

Two examinations of candidates for certificates to teach were held simultaneously at New Westminster and Victoria, and of the 25 who presented themselves all obtained certificates, namely: Two a First Class Grade A; three a First Class Grade B; one a

Second Class Grade A; seven a Second Class Grade B; eleven a Third Class Grade A, and one a Third Class Grade B. One of these, educated in the Public and High School of this city, obtained the third place on the list in order of merit, proving himself not unworthy to compete with teachers of large experience in this and other Provinces, and thus showing that, so far at least as education is concerned, this Province is able to educate its own teachers, provided advantage is taken of the means ready to that end. There are now 58 teachers employed in the Department, of whom six have been entirely educated in the Public Schools of the Province. Their salaries average \$61.12 per month, and run as follows:—one at \$125, three at \$100, two at ninety, one at \$80, one 75, six at \$70, 1 at \$65, twenty at \$60, three at \$55, seventeen at \$50, one at \$45, two at \$20. The total value of school property in the Province, including sites, buildings, furniture, &c., is \$78,000. The High School of Victoria is managed by two teachers, and has an average attendance of over 50. The average attendance at the Public Schools of the city of Victoria is over 600.

Readings and Recitations.

"TOO RICH TO AFFORD IT."

"I don't want to go to school any more, father."

Mr. Palmer raised his eyes in surprise to the face of his first-born, a lad of about fifteen.

And a bright intelligent face it was, though it was a little clouded now by a feeling of dubiousness as to how his words would be taken.

"Why don't you want to go to school any more?"

"Well, sir, I'm tired of studying, and—I don't see any use in it."

"Think you know enough, that you don't need to learn any more?"

The boy coloured a little at that quizzical look and tone.

"I know as much as George Lyman does, and he left school three months ago. He says that he ain't going away to school when his father has got plenty of money."

Mr. Palmer turned upon his son's face a look of grave surprise.

"Did George Lyman say that, Walter? His father is a poorer man than I thought him."

"You are richer than Mr. Lyman is, ain't you father?" asked the boy eagerly.

"I hoped I was, but that remains to be seen."

"Mr. Lyman is rich, too, father; every one says that he is."

"That remains to be seen also. So you have quite made up your mind that you do not want to go to school any more, my son?"

"Yes, sir."

"You needn't then."

"Oh, thank you, father!" cried Walter, his face brightening.

"Wait a minute," said Mr. Palmer, as the boy caught up his hat preparatory to making a dive through the open door. "Come back, I have something more to say to you. You have nothing to thank me for—except, perhaps, my good intentions. Considering it as the best gift I could bestow, it was my intention to give you a thorough education. But there is a homely and true saying: 'One man can lead a horse to water, but ten cannot make him drink.' So, though I have by no means changed my opinion as to the value of an education, I consent to your leaving school, because, if you feel as you say you do, it will be only time and money thrown away. But I want you to understand clearly one thing: that if you do not go to school you will have to go to work. I can't afford to have you idle."

Walter's countenance underwent a very perceptible change.

"Do you mean that I must go out at day's work like Dan Baker and Sam Blake?"

"I mean that you must have some steady employment, some trade or business which will give you just so many hours' work as surely as the sun rises."

"Why, father, George Lyman and Will Broomley don't have to work; and they say they don't mean to, either. George told me that he heard his father say that you were the richest man in the county."

"I might be the richest man in two counties, and yet not be rich enough to afford to have my boy idle."

Mr. Palmer smiled as he saw Walter's puzzled look.

"This is a hard thing for you to understand, my son, and I might talk to you from this time until sunset and not make it any more clear to you. To-morrow is Saturday, and you know I always take you somewhere that day. This time it shall be to Plainfield, where an old school-mate of mine is living. A visit to him and the place where he lives will serve better to explain my meaning than anything I can say."

The next morning Walter and his father started out bright and early, in the open phaeton, drawn by a pair of well-matched mettlesome bays, which bore them swiftly along the smooth, hard road.

Plainfield was fifteen miles distant, and the way thither through such a beautiful country was so entirely new to Walter that he forgot all