

## COUNTY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The following is so much of the report of the County Inspector as pertains to the Schools in the City of Saint John, for 1872.

*"To the Chief Superintendent of Education.*

*"DEAR SIR,—*

*"In accordance with your request, I proceed to lay before you a report of the condition of schools in St. John, to the 31st October, 1872.*

I may premise that this being the first year that the school act has been in operation, there have been imperfections in working it out, chiefly arising from misconception, which will be prevented in future by a better knowledge of its requirements.

In the City of St. John (which includes Carleton) there were employed in the summer term 81 teachers, of whom 27 were male teachers, and 54 females.

With the exception of the grammar school, there are no buildings for school purposes which may be called public property, all belonging to private individuals, or some ecclesiastical body. The fact that there were no public school houses in the city has always been a standing disgrace, but for want of an organized school corporation that disgrace could not be removed. The teachers, who, for the most part, had to struggle for a subsistence, were compelled to provide at their own expense, school accommodation for their pupils, as best they could; the result was, that in many cases, the rooms were wretchedly unsuitable, often so poorly ventilated as to endanger the health both of the teachers and scholars. Blame was often laid on the teacher, and perhaps sometimes justly, but wherever the blame lay, a reformation was imperatively required. It is gratifying, now, to witness the changed character of the school rooms. No buildings have, as yet, been erected, but the trustees have succeeded in renting rooms much more adapted for school purposes than those formerly in use. There, were, indeed, some few very good school rooms which have been secured by the trustees.