

PERMANENCY.

In looking over the reports of education for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia it is a matter of regret to observe the frequent change of teachers, the short space of time that they are employed in a district, and the general unrest that seems to be characteristic of the teaching profession. No matter how well fitted teachers may be by previous training and scholarship for imparting instruction,—no matter what special gifts they may have for moulding the mind and forming the character, the consciousness that they are soon to engage in other pursuits must act as a clog on their efforts and prevent that development of their powers which increasing knowledge and a ripper experience are sure to bring.

This element of permanency is one which should be fostered—by governments, by communities, and especially by those upon whom is placed the responsibility of administering our education. A government that fosters education by a wise and liberal policy is laying the foundation of a lasting prosperity. Institutions, as normal schools, that fit teachers for their work, higher institutions of learning, especially those that stimulate the industrial activities of a people, should be so thoroughly equipped and maintained as to make their influence felt in all departments of life. It may be necessary to practice rigid economy, but an economy that cripples education is unwise.

Many communities have yet to learn that the cheapest teachers are the most expensive in the end. The least reflecting person must realize that to intrust the education of his children to an inefficient teacher is a poor way to economize. If he must stint he should do it in some other direction. But the time must soon come when to pay trained and capable teachers a living salary as one means to ensure permanency will be looked upon as a wise and judicious investment by those who employ educated labor.

But if a government supports normal schools in which to fit teachers for their work it should have the assurance of at least some degree of permanency on the part of the pupil-teachers who are graduated therefrom. In Newfoundland there is one excellent feature in the school system, and it is that teachers who receive normal school advantages have to guarantee to teach for a stated period. If normal schools are called upon to do less academic and high school work and more training or professional work, it certainly seems but a measure of justice to the country that it should receive the benefit, by requiring their graduates to remain longer in the profession. A correspondent in our last put this matter very forcibly, and it is worthy of consideration.

MOUNT ALLISON INSTITUTIONS.

The academic year has just closed at Mt. Allison. From the reports to hand the past year has been one of more than ordinary progress and success. These Educational Institutions, though under the control of the Methodist church, are not conducted in sectarian grooves. All denominations and classes throughout the Provinces patronize them, and so generally has this been the case that scores of old students are found in all departments of professional, mercantile and manufacturing employments. The great success that has crowned the efforts of Mt. Allison during the past year may be regarded as an indication of increased interest in the higher education all along the line. The attendance at the University during the year has been 95; at the Ladies' College, 145; and at the Academy, 57. These figures indicate that the stimulus of intellectual quickening and culture has been brought to bear upon nearly 300 youths of our country in these institutions during the past year.

The closing exercises were of a very interesting and pleasing character. These are among the strong points in favor of Mt. Allison. The students show to the public what they are capable of doing and the character of the instruction during the year. Principal Davis was able to report a larger attendance in the Academy than the year previous, but the attendance is by no means what it might be or what its friends hope for. The high state of the public school system of the Provinces has, no doubt, affected the attendance at the old Academy. The Ladies' College is in a highly flourishing condition. Principal Borden and his fellow instructors may well feel proud of the success which has attended their efforts. Music, Fine Arts and Modern Languages are taught by instructors of the very highest attainments, and then all the advantages of the University classes are thrown open to the young ladies. The attendance is so large and the applications for rooms so pressing that a further enlargement of the building has become a necessity. To meet the growing demand for musical culture in all its branches, a movement is on foot to erect a new building to be known as the Conservatory of Music.

We are glad to note that the graduating class this year is the largest that has yet gone forth from the University. Another pleasing feature in connection with this class is that two of its members were young ladies. Mt. Allison has the distinguished honor of being the first College in Canada to throw open its doors to women, and also the first to confer the regular B. A. and M. A. degree upon the other sex.