

TALKS WITH TEACHERS

It is said that some school secretaries derive quite a collection of stamps from the unanswered letters they receive from teachers. It is annoying to enclose a stamp and receive no reply, and it is more than discourteous on the part of school officers to treat any one in that manner. I would suggest that stamped and addressed envelopes be enclosed instead of stamps. The best kind to send is the regular stamped envelope for sale at most post offices—the stamp on which cannot be detached.

There is more inquiry for first class teachers. Town after town is refusing to engage any but first class teachers. One of the last to adopt the rule is the City of St. John. If you then desire to be a candidate for the best positions you must qualify. Begin right away, for you must bear in mind that licenses are not obtained as expeditiously as formerly and the standard is considerably higher. It is difficult to teach all day and study for advance of class, in addition to the preparation of school work, but it can and has been done. Such subjects as history, geography and perhaps grammar and composition, can be taken up without a teacher. Something can be done in all departments of work. You can increase your professional knowledge largely without assistance. Above all things be systematic in your preparation. Do not study one evening until midnight and not return to it for a week. Study on no evening until midnight but study some during all evenings. Continuous and systematic effort will tell.

A case of school discipline came up recently in St. John which caused a ripple of excitement—some praising and others condemning the action of the principal. In a building in the city pilfering had been going on for some time, greatly to the annoyance of the teachers. Marked money was placed in one of the teacher's satchels—not exposed as a temptation but hung upon the wall. The money was found in a shop where cigarettes were sold and it was traced to the boy who had spent it. The principal immediately reported the matter to the police magistrate, who, at the request of the teacher inflicted no severer punishment upon the boy than a reprimand, but fined the vendor of cigarettes ten dollars. My own opinion is that the teacher did right. Petty stealing has been going on in the St. John schools for years and certain lectures has been the rule to such an extent that they were laughed at in many cases. A trip or two to the police magistrate will have a far more deterrent effect. The most satisfactory feature in the whole case was the imposition of a fine upon the vendor of cigarettes. It may be well hoped that it will have the effect of mitigating what is getting to be a great evil.



Miss N. A. Burgoyne, Windsor

It will no doubt be pleasant, perhaps profitable, to our readers to be introduced to a few of the most successful lady teachers of Nova Scotia. We know that Miss Burgoyne, whose likeness appears above, will not be altogether pleased to be brought into so prominent a position, for she is as much distinguished for her modesty as for her natural tact in the school room, and in both respects she has few if any superiors in our common schools.

Miss Burgoyne was born in South Devonshire, England. Her early education was acquired partly in public schools and partly in a private school. While still very young she fell in love with the beautiful in nature—a love which continues to show itself in her fondness for nature studies in her school and in her remarkable success in teaching them. She was trained as a pupil teacher in an English normal training school where the course covered seven years, but as she showed great natural aptitude for the work her course was reduced to five years. Her English first-class "parchment," as it is called there, is dated from Stockwell Normal School. For a very short time she taught at Torquay, after which she came to Nova Scotia, attracted here no doubt by the presence of her brother, now business manager of the Halifax *Herald*. After teaching for a year at Waterville she was appointed to the public schools of Windsor where she teaches in one of the higher grades.

Miss Burgoyne was never found unprepared when improvements were made in our course of study. Indeed she often helped to form public opinion by leading in