

be, and is true in many cases; but I look upon the mere planting of trees as secondary in the observance of the day. Interest your pupils in trees, and their growth and care. Prepare a programme of exercises, and indulge in a general cleaning of the house and premises. If you plant trees, exercise a little common sense in the selection and placing of them. You can easily see what kind of trees thrive best in your locality. I would not advise you to plant an elm on a rock. Do not place the trees close under the windows, or where it would be a great misfortune if they happened to grow.

If you think Arbor Day will come too late, plant your trees before that date and have your exercises then. It does not answer to set out trees after the buds begin to open. It is very difficult three or four weeks in advance to prognosticate the season, and the date fixed has generally been too late. I hope the inspectors, in addition to reports from teachers, will insist upon a reasonable showing at their next visit. It is to be hoped, too, that teachers will report fully. It should be under the following heads: No. of Trees; No. of Shrubs; No. of Flower Beds; General Improvements; Programme of Exercises. The last should probably be placed first. It is to be hoped that there will be no reports like this "Arbor Day was observed in this district by the planting of trees."

Culled from N. B. Inspectors' Reports.

INSPECTOR MERSEREAU (District No. 1):

Nearly all the teachers in my inspectorate subscribe for and read the *EDUCATIONAL REVIEW*, which they profess to find exceedingly helpful in all their school work, but especially in lessons on Nature, while it keeps them in touch with the great body of educational thought and experience throughout the Maritime Provinces.

* * * Inexperience and insufficient preparation have made the tree-planting on Arbor Day a failure. Not one per cent. of the trees planted last year lived during the summer. However, much good has undoubtedly been accomplished in other directions, and it is to be hoped that in the course of time experience will teach us how to transplant and care for trees.

INSPECTOR SMITH (District No. 2):

* * * I have found, with few exceptions, teachers interested in their work, and on the alert for any suggestions that might be of use to them. There are, however, still a few teachers who cling to the idea that their success depends entirely upon pleasing the parents, and these follow the old custom of hurrying the pupils through the reading books as the rate of speed at which a pupil goes through a book is the measure of success laid down by some parents. * * * I have been much pleased with the disposition manifested by trustees and ratepayers generally to carry out suggestions in the way of improving the school houses and grounds, and many necessary improvements have been made during the year. I find some difficulty, however, in convincing trustees that good maps and blackboards are absolutely necessary for the success of the school in the fullest sense, and that those schools amply provided with apparatus, other things being equal, do much better work than where a scant provision is made; though many teachers do good work under very unfavorable circumstances, and with the most meagre supply of apparatus.

INSPECTOR STEEVES (District No. 3):

* * * As I have pursued my work much of a cheering and encouraging nature has come under my observation. To have a good

school, well equipped and capable of giving the children correct instruction and proper training, is the pride of many districts. The value, on educational as well as physiological grounds, of good school houses, well lighted, neat, clean, comfortable and pleasant, the desirability of the school premises being attractive and well kept, are properly estimated by an increasing number of people. Many Boards of Trustees show themselves anxious to secure the most energetic, industrious and progressive teachers, whom they encourage and support in promoting the highest welfare of the school. On the other hand, many trustees consider that if they keep the school house door open a part of the year no more should be asked. They would cramp and cripple the energies of the best teacher. Indeed, I am forced to the conclusion that many Trustees are elected with the avowed sole purpose of keeping the taxes down to the lowest possible figure, and that they use their official position to hinder the advancement of the school, and sometimes to deprive the district of any but the scantiest school privileges. These cases are deplorable.

INSPECTOR CARTER (District No. 4):

The majority of the teachers seems to be imbued with a desire to keep abreast of the times and to improve themselves. There are few who do not read educational papers and attend their County Institute when possible. This year, as in the past, I have found them most ready and willing to respond to any suggestions in the way of improving their surroundings. Districts owe to their teachers more than ever improvements in furniture, apparatus, libraries, flags and repairs. I have pointed out a few of them in my general report, but not nearly all. I regret as the years go by to notice that some of our oldest and, at one time, probably our best teachers, becoming worn in the service and failing in effectiveness. * * * I think it is a blot upon the civilization of the present age that no provision should be made for worn-out teachers. Teachers themselves should take the initiative in this matter, and do as has been done in a few other places—start a Superannuation Fund in their own ranks first. When they are found ready to help themselves, others will, no doubt, help.

INSPECTOR BRIDGES (District No. 5):

Arbor Day is observed largely throughout this Inspectoral District and its benefits are, year by year, becoming more apparent, both in the grounds of the school and also in the decoration of the school room. Trees of substantial growth may be observed in almost all school grounds, and the bare walls of the school room are relieved by tasteful, as well as instructive, decorations.

During the year more than usual activity has been displayed by local school boards in maintaining efficient schools in their respective districts, and no organized district was without a teacher for the full year. * * * The local license is a thing of the past. Much interest also has been shown in improving the school houses in appearance, both internally and externally, and in furnishing something more than the bare necessities of school apparatus and appliances.

INSPECTOR MEAGHER (District No. 6):

School libraries have been established in a number of districts during the year just closed. The work in this direction is very encouraging. * * * Allusion has been made in previous reports to the necessity of licensing untrained teachers to conduct the schools in a number of districts of this county, and the consequent set-back that has been given to educational progress in those quarters where that necessity exists. The outlook in this direction is now much more encouraging.

Lay on the edge of a table a long and narrow paper bag, and place some heavy weights—two dictionaries for example—upon the closed end. The books can be overturned without being touched, simply by blowing.

The compressed air will swell the bag so violently that the weights upon it will be raised and thrown over. This experiment enables us to measure the strength of our breath by overturning objects of various weights, and will prove that an adult can, without fatigue, raise with his breath a weight of at least twenty pounds.