

the trustees of these sections liberty to build, in each section, 2 school-houses. We have now in this County, 5 Sections with this arrangement. One important object is gained by it; that the advantages of, at least, the elementary branches of a Common school education, are brought within the reach of all in those sections; but still the arrangement in every case is not satisfactory, as the idea in permitting it was, that those schools would be conducted on the principle, as near as circumstances could permit, of the graded system, but practically they are found to be scarcely an approximation to it. The only advantage in not dividing them being, as already indicated, in a pecuniary point of view. Several of the sections that are too limited in extent, are so situated that their boundaries cannot be enlarged to any advantage; and others, without interfering with neighbouring sections. The difficulty realized in sustaining those weak sections and dividing some of the others referred to, may now, however, in a great measure be obviated by the advantages afforded by the late amendment in the school law, which gives trustees power to tax the property of rate-payers sixty years of age and upwards within their sections.

There were erected within the past year 5 new school-houses; 1 in each of the following sections, viz.:—South Gut, St. Anns, New Haven; Middle Harbor, C. N.; Centre Section, Boularderie; Kempt Head; and Ship Yard.

During the winter term, there were in operation 64 schools, and the summer, 69. These gave employment to a similar number of teachers; and a large majority of whom, appear diligent and painstaking; but not all, by any means, equally successful. Some have, naturally, and by their superior literary attainments, the facilities in the school-room, necessary to successful work, the advantage over others; but several would deserve, were it not that comparisons are invidious, special commendation. I was glad to observe, in general, with a few exceptions, that during the past two terms, there were satisfactory marks of improvement, not only in the more efficient conducting of the schools and the progress of the pupils, but also in the manifestation of greater care and accuracy in the filling in of the Returns, at the close of last school term, than on former occasions.

It may not be out of place to remark in this connection, that were every teacher to provide himself, or herself, with good ink, make neat and distinct figures, be careful that every column in the Returns be correctly filled in, and that it be preserved scrupulously clean, the execution would not only reflect credit on the teacher, but relieve the inspector of a great deal of ocular straining and unpleasant correction.

The following tables will show the number, grade, and sex, of the teachers employed during the past two terms, viz:—

WINTER.

	A	B	C	D	E	
Males.....	1	6	9	17	—	= 33
Females.....	..	..	8	15	8	= 31
Total.....	1	6	17	32	8	= 64

SUMMER.

	A	B	C	D	E	
Males.....	1	6	10	18	—	= 35
Females.....	..	..	8	13	13	= 34
Total.....	1	6	18	31	13	= 69