

them all. No teacher should remain contented with the lowest class of license for longer than three years.

The Inspectors may justly urge on their own part as to renewals that it is not for them to take into consideration the question of abstract justice as regards others, but to carry out the regulation, and if the teacher has met with the requisite degree of success, they may consider they have no option but to recommend renewal by the regulation. This is as it may be, but it would be better for all if the time were strictly limited to three years, as the prospect of renewal dulls ambition on the part of some. It might be well for the Board of Education to consider the advisability of doing away with the short attendance at the Normal School altogether, especially in view of the tendency on all sides to increase the Normal School attendance. There would still be third class teachers, but they would at least have as long a training as those holding higher classes of license, and surely this is desirable.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

I question the good taste which prompts the publication of certificates of special excellence received from the Chief Superintendent of N. B. Though these letters are somewhat rare, as they should be if discrimination is used, it does not by any means follow that they are held only by those who have permitted them to be published. They should constitute the most valuable kind of a certificate to be used professionally, and school boards cannot do better than give them due recognition; but to parade them in print seems rather a cheap mode of advertisement. It is not considered professional among doctors and lawyers to parade their triumphs professionally, and I think the same rule should hold among teachers.

I was passing through a county district a few days ago and was struck with the efforts of the people of the locality to make the road-sides attractive. They had been ploughed, harrowed and seeded, and trees had been planted on each side. In a very short time how proud these people will be of their work, and future generations will remember with gratitude the thoughtfulness of these people.

There is a hint in all this for the schools. Many school grounds have already been filled with trees. What is to prevent teachers and pupils going out on the road-sides, accompanied by all or as many people of the district as can be interested, and planting them with trees and otherwise rendering them pleasant to look upon. Have you ever driven along a stretch of road which was shaded on a hot day? You cannot do

so without a feeling of gratitude toward those whose work it was. Let the teachers think over this plan for next Arbor Day.

Another road-side feature that has impressed me is the provision made in some localities for watering troughs for animals and the total absence of them in others.

Some road commissioners have an impression that road money is not to be spent for watering privileges, and others more wisely consider them as necessary as good roads. Who will gainsay their advantages from a humanitarian standpoint? We all admonish our pupils against cruelty to animals. What is more cruel than for horses to travel for hours without a chance to drink? The provision of good watering troughs would not only bring down blessings from horses if they could talk, but from men and women, especially bicyclists, of whom the number is increasing. Would it not be a good idea for each school to equip or take charge of at least one good watering trough? Think over it, and let us take this much share in the movement for good roads.

At the last session of the Charlotte County Teachers' Institute the president drew the attention of the teachers to the advisability of preserving the old school registers and bring the same to the notice of the school secretaries. He remarked upon their value from a historical standpoint. Dr. MacKay, who was present, told what was being done in this respect in Nova Scotia, and from a school register which has been sent me from there I cannot but observe how much more careful they are than we in New Brunswick are.

Teachers are not only strictly enjoined to fill them in accurately, but the inspector has to report as well upon their preservation by the school sections. Not only the names of the pupils are enrolled, but also those of their fathers or guardians. The older these records become, the more valuable they are. Who would not like to look at the register kept when he attended school?

Let me ask the teachers, then, to use their influence with the secretaries to collect all the old registers in the districts, and if possible have them bound. I know of no locality, except the City of St. John, where the school registers have been bound and preserved since the beginning of the school law,—even some of our smaller towns being very lax in this respect.

Please remind your secretary, if he has not already done so, to send the inspector a copy of the minutes of the last school meeting in New Brunswick.