

DEPARTMENTS FOR 1875 AND 1876.

1875.	1876.
Winter term.....58	Winter term.....59
Summer term.....69	Summer term.....76

Showing an increase of one department in winter and seven in summer over the corresponding ones for 1875. The number of pupils in the winter term was 2715, and in the summer term 3395. Shewing an increase of 79 pupils in winter, and 303 in summer over the corresponding terms of the previous year. The number of children at school some portion of the year—according to the Trustees returns—was 3957, and in the year 1875, 3650. These figures shew an increase of 307 at school during some portion of the year. The trustees returns again reverse the fact, that in sections having schools there were six hundred and eleven (611) in winter, and four hundred and sixty-eight in summer, between the ages of 5 and 15 who did not attend school. In sections without schools about three hundred (300), so that probably there were nearly eight hundred (800) children between five and fifteen years of age who have received little or no education.

The number of sections in this county is one less than last year. Black Point sections Nos. 18 and 19 were united by the Board of Commissioners in May last, and had a school in operation the summer term.

The progress made in many of our schools during the year is not such as I could wish. Among our teachers we have those who take great interest in their work, and consequently these schools make good progress. Others having no heart in their work, and but little ability for teaching, so that there is little life or progress in the schools. In looking over the register I have found many of the pupils who have not attended more than from six to eight weeks of the term, and consequently their children receive but little or no education; for this state of things it is difficult to find a remedy, unless it is compulsory attendance for at least one half of the term.

I very much regret that in so many of our schools the supply of text books is so very deficient. I have repeatedly brought this matter to the notice of the Trustees and parents of the pupils, but they do not appear to appreciate the need of such things in the school. I have given several sections notice that unless the schools are better supplied, I would advise the School Commissioners to withhold the County fund from the section. In almost all the sections of this county no provision is made for books, and the pupils are left to provide what books they can.

Although the general condition of many of our Schools is encouraging, and much has been accomplished, yet in many respects improvement is necessary. In no branch of education is there more time spent than in reading and spelling, and the progress is but satisfactory; children are hurried forward from one book to another entirely too fast. In some of our schools the pupils read very distinctly, but when we find pupils who have passed through nearly all the reading books, and cannot write a dozen lines from dictation without making mistakes in the spelling, we must conclude that the teaching has been imperfect.

In many of our Schools writing is successfully taught; but I very much regret that in many others, the teachers pay so little attention to this matter. Little or no system is observed, and the pupils are left to their own choice in the manner of holding the pen, and the position of the copy-book on the desk.

The Academy, with the Preparatory and Elementary departments in Guysboro', have been in constant operation, and some progress made. The Academic Department was conducted during the winter by Mr. John Wallace, and summer term by Mr. John Munro, a Graduate of Dalhousie College. The attendance has been about the same as usual, principally residents of the Section in which the Academy is situated.