

ture. At length, though not without hesitation, I consented, stipulating, however, that I should have a few months to visit educational institutions, and to collect information, in the United States and Canada, so that I might be able to speak with more authority on questions of school improvement.

Thus I was launched for three years on an entirely new career, of a most active and exacting nature. In summer I travelled from county to county, convening meetings of the commissioners of schools and of persons interested in education; examining schools and collecting statistics concerning them; lecturing on education, and explaining the means of introducing agriculture into the schools; occasionally convening teachers' institutes in central places; introducing uniform text-books and new apparatus; devising plans for better schoolhouses; and with all this carrying on a geological reconnaissance and collecting specimens. In winter, in addition to much correspondence and issuing an educational journal, I worked up my statistics and reports, and spent much time in Halifax, explaining to members of the Legislature my new educational projects. I also, chiefly in