

In Nova Scotia the Educational Association will meet this year at Halifax during the last week of the year. Although the winter season is not so pleasant for travelling it is more favorable in other respects than the summer for such an educational gathering. Those who attend will come with more vigor from the shorter term's work, the impressions received will be less likely to fade from the mind in the brief period before a return to work, and the longer school term between winter and summer vacations will give more opportunity to the teacher to put in practice what has been gained in the council of teachers.

The Nova Scotia Summer School of Science this year will meet at Parrsboro, July 21st, and continue in session two weeks. The promoters of this summer school have aroused and maintained an interest in it, which grows from year to year. This is the result of a very thorough organization, a careful administration on the part of its executive, and an unbounded enthusiasm on the part of both teachers and students in the subjects of the course. The approaching session promises to be attended by greater numbers than any previous one.

Summer schools and educational gatherings in other places will attract a few of our teachers. Very many will spend the vacation quietly and devote their leisure to the gaining of fresh strength for next year's work. Earnest teachers, and those who are sincerely desirous of the welfare of those committed to their charge, will make their vacation, whether it consists of work or play, a recreation indeed—devoting it to the invigoration of mind and body, and gaining, by communion with nature and with other minds, new ideas and purposes.

SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

While on the whole the average salary of our teachers is not rising, we are glad to notice that when teachers excel in their profession there is an evident disposition on the part of intelligent communities to acknowledge such merit by larger pecuniary remuneration than ever before given in the history of the provinces. Intelligent men know the value of a superior teacher. But among our teachers are some honest ones who have no genius for teaching, and some whose hearts are in the work only so far as is necessary to earn a little money to make a start in some other business. These not only deservedly receive small remuneration, but their presence also tends to reduce the rate of remuneration of deserving teachers. These may be known by their

apathy in any educational effort which does not appear to be likely to increase their salary for the present, or perhaps for the next term. It is not the profession of their choice—merely a make-shift, or a necessity. He who discovers an expedient method of eliminating such individuals from the profession will be the greatest benefactor of his time from an educational point of view.

SALARIES OF INSPECTORS.

The development of the County Academies and High Schools of Nova Scotia specially distinguish the last few years of our history. We might also add, the stimulation of technical education, by the encouragement of agricultural and mining instruction. The inspector remains yet, however, one of the greatest potencies in the inspiration of both teachers and trustees, as well as being necessary as a supervisor and a statistician. But growth in some departments and the stagnation in others may produce a very deformed organic whole. We have referred to the growing appreciation of teachers of special merit in some of our best schools of to-day. Several teachers in more than one county receive higher salaries than are paid inspectors. Now it is admitted on all hands that the inspector should be the first teacher in his county. But should a vacancy in the inspectorship of some counties occur to-day, the best teachers would feel that that appointment would be no promotion, on account of the low salary fixed in the olden time. Now the duties of the Inspector are more important than the duties of a teacher; and his influence should be enormously greater, and they are. Yet we find learned, skillful, energetic men worked nearly off their feet, on salaries which are not at all in keeping with the progress of to-day, not at all in proportion to the requirements of their positions, and not at all compatible with the most efficient discharge of their duties to the public. We have been inspired by no inspector in making this note. We just incidentally noticed that the salaries of skilled teachers have been raising, while those of inspectors being fixed by government have remained *in statu quo*. And we were not long in observing, as any business man at a glance can see, that if an efficient inspector has been appointed he should have an appropriate remuneration, one at least sufficient to enable him to be thoroughly equipped in every respect for the important—extremely important—functions of his position. We have no doubt but that our government will give this suggestion a careful consideration; and giving it a careful consideration we have confidence they will do right, even if our view should not be exactly entertained.