

Conveying Pupils To and From School.

It is satisfactory to note that a bill has been introduced into the legislature of New Brunswick to permit districts to undertake to provide for the conveyance of pupils to and from school. The Chief Superintendent, in his report, refers to the advantages of this system, and Inspector Carter goes into the matter at some length in his. The trend of population is toward cities, towns and villages, thus weakening the country districts, not only in pupils, but in resources; and while it may not have been the intention of governing bodies, it is nevertheless true that state aid has, by the force of these circumstances, been withdrawn from the purely rural district in order to add to the resources of the centres of population, where it may be needed, but not to the same extent as in the more sparsely populated districts.

Grammar schools have always, and are still, located in towns or villages, but the disposition is to diminish the number and establish them where the population is greater. By recent regulation, too, the superior schools will no longer be found in districts where a graded school cannot be maintained. In former times, when a superior school was allowed each parish, there were vigorous country schools in various parts of each county, and the competition was keen for the grant. Quality of instruction was the incentive for work rather than quantity of pupils. It is difficult for those unacquainted with schools to estimate the amount of excellent work accomplished in one of these rural superior schools, having only one teacher, perhaps, or a teacher and an assistant. Pupils of both sexes and of more mature ages than those to be found in attendance at the graded schools, there, in the quiet country school, accomplish an amount of work that would astonish the town pupil, and it is from schools such as these that many of our most prominent men have been turned out.

It cannot be doubted but that the educational average is at present far higher in the country schools than ever before, but it also cannot be denied that the tendency is to disestablish the good old-fashioned advanced country schools, and all will admit that this is most undesirable. If it be possible for three or four country districts to unite their forces and convey pupils from a distance of from two to five miles, it will give the rural districts a renewed lease of life without taxing their resources further than at present. It was hoped a year or two ago that by an increase of the county fund that the more populous districts would contribute more toward the support of the rural districts, but this plan, for some reason, has not been carried into execution. Any plan that will prevent the passing of the advanced country school will be greeted with satisfaction by all interested in education.

Gleanings from N. B. School Report.

While there was a slight decrease in the enrolment of pupils in New Brunswick for the year, there was an increase in the number of schools. This is a pretty fair argument for a compulsory clause in the law.

There were during the year 230 schools in operation, with an average attendance of less than ten pupils. This is a good argument for the "Concord system."

In the enrolment of pupils St John comes first of the cities and towns of the province, Moncton second, Fredericton third, and Chatham fourth.

In average attendance Milltown still leads for the year. Woodstock leads the province for the December term, closely followed by Milltown.

There were sixty-eight students in attendance at the university during the year.

Grammar and first class teachers have increased 7 per cent, second class teachers have decreased 1 per cent, and third class teachers have decreased 6 per cent. There is a hint in this for teachers holding the lower classes.

The superintendent intimates his intention of recommending that all third class licenses granted prior to December 31st, 1893, shall be cancelled on the first day of July, 1899.

Of 1,890 schools reported on by inspectors, 878 are ranked "excellent," or "good," 984 as "fair," and 28 "poor." The average salaries of grammar and superior school teachers show an increase also—those of first class females,—another hint to obtain a higher class of license. Since 1891 the number of schools has increased by 13 per cent and the expenditure by 17 per cent. It is a good sign to see the expenditure keeping pace with the increase of schools.

An additional week's vacation is to be given to those teachers who attend the Dominion Educational Association in Halifax in August next. Said vacation to be taken at such time as may be agreed upon between teachers and their trustees.

The need of a school census in cities and towns is referred to. It is believed that many pupils do not attend school at all. In the City of St. John the school attendance is not so large as in 1890.

The report is concluded with an endorsement of the plan of centralization for rural schools, with facilities for transportation of pupils.

Some Day

And only the Master shall praise us and only the Master shall
blame,
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for
fame,
But each for the joy of working, and each in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It, for the God of Things as
They Are.
—Rudyard Kipling.