

when they find this standard of fitness so general. - Even many teachers who would otherwise be attentive and diligent, on observing the apathy and indifference on the part of those most interested in their employment, become themselves also remiss in their discharge of duty. And it is but almost natural that they would; for neither teacher nor trustees can be expected to work with much zeal when they receive little or no sympathy from those who should manifest the greater interest in the success of the school. This indifference which has such chilling effect on the zeal of trustees and teacher displays itself in the non-attendance of parents at annual meetings unless for the purpose of opposing the expense necessary to give efficiency to the school; in allowing their children to be irregular in their attendance, in their neglect to visit the school, in their failure to see that their children study at home as well as at school in order to secure proficiency, and in various other ways. I am happy to assure you that we have many good teachers in spite of the disadvantages I have stated—teachers who in every sense of the word are fit for their position, although in some cases the compensation and even the gratitude they receive from those they benefit do not render their lot over-desirable. In fact I may say we have more good teachers than good schools, because owing to the frequent change of teachers, seldom is a good one kept long enough in a section to raise the school to any degree of efficiency and advancement. Rarely is he continued for two consecutive terms, and then he is succeeded by a stranger, perhaps, to what should be taught, and to the method of imparting instruction with which the pupils had been familiarized. Hence the good work the retiring one had been accomplishing, must be arrested until the successor becomes acquainted with the relative aptitude of the different pupils, and learns his own position. Sometimes this first requisite of his duty may be impossible for him. His inferior attainments may unfit him for it, and then the period of his engagement has to be spent in some authoritative pretense of dispensing instruction. He leaves, and another stranger succeeds, who may or may not be an improvement. Progress must be precarious which has to be promoted by the different systems of such different and indifferent teachers.

I have to tender my thanks to the Commissioners who are ever active, at much sacrifice and inconvenience, in the discharge of duties which the law is ungenerous enough to expect them to perform without reward.

Yours respectfully,

A. McISAAC.

REV. A. S. HUNT, A. M.,
Superintendent of Education.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

A. McKINNON, Inspector.

SIR,—

I beg leave to submit the following brief annual report of the schools at work in the year ended October 31st, 1876.

In the Winter term there were one hundred and thirteen schools and departments in operation, with four thousand eight hundred and thirty-four (4834) registered pupils, being an increase of two hundred and eighteen (218) on the corresponding term of last year; and in the Summer term, we had five thousand four hundred and seventy-two (5472) registered pupils, being an increase on the corresponding term of last year of six hundred and thirty-eight (638).