

Nova Scotia School Report.

The report of Dr. A. H. MacKay, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, is a document covering more than four hundred pages, in which is found the educational history of the province, for the year ending 31st July, 1912. The portion of the report dealing with technical education is especially interesting and complete, giving not only what has been done in Nova Scotia in this direction but with impressions of technical schools abroad,—in Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, by Principal F. H. Sexton, the director of technical education in the province. Principal Sexton had the privilege last year of accompanying the Canadian Royal Commission on its tour through these countries and has evidently observed to some purpose. His report is a valuable contribution to the work on industrial and technical training that has been so effectively begun in Nova Scotia.

There was an enrolment during the year of 102,910 pupils in the public schools an increase of 875 over the previous year. The attendance at the technical and special schools was 2,476, an increase of 1,045 over last year, or a total attendance of 105,386 in all public schools. The amount voted by the people for school purposes was \$804,125, an increase of \$43,112 over the previous year. The number of vacant schools was less than for many years, and the normal trained teachers employed was 1,215, an increase of 118 over 1910. The provincial aid to teachers increased from \$220,870 to \$226,389 and the annuities to teachers from \$6,555 to \$6,935. There were 2,639 schools in session, sixty more than the past year, and by far the greatest number in the history of the province. The percentage daily present of the annual enrolment of pupils was 64.3 but the percentage on the roll during the quarter in daily attendance was 68.1. In the county academies the two percentages were respectively 76.7 and 83.8. Dr. MacKay says: "Were the percentage on the roll in attendance calculated for each month, or each week, as it is done in some countries, it would show a correspondingly higher rate of regularity of attendance." Some uniform method of computing averages is required to make possible a comparison of statistics in different countries.

Dr. MacKay regrets that the salaries paid to teachers has advanced but slightly, and in some sections it is even lower than last year. Yet there is an excess of teachers in the province.

Prince Edward Island School Report.

The annual report of the Chief Superintendent of Schools of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Alexander Anderson, is published for the year ending 30th September, 1911. After a long and honorable service in the schools of the province, Dr. Anderson has resigned the position of superintendent, and Mr. R. H. Campbell, B. A., appointed in his place. He is well qualified for the position having had a successful career as teacher in the schools of Prince Edward Island.

Dr. Anderson, in resigning his office, refers to two urgent needs,—higher salaries for teachers and a re-arrangement of school districts. Such a reform, he is confident, would begin a new era of educational progress for the Island.

The number of pupils enrolled for the year ending 30th September last, was 17,397, a decrease of 535 from the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 60.4, a decrease of 4.2. The decrease was observable in every county and may be partly accounted for by sickness, but, says the superintendent, "I attribute it mainly to the depletion of the ranks of our best teachers during the past two or three years, and filling the places, thus left vacant, with young and inexperienced teachers whose aspirations are not concentrated on their work and their pupils, and who are not calculated, either by character or equipment, to attract their scholars and inspire them with a love for their school or enthusiasm in its work."

CANADA'S CAPITAL.

Where are the political affairs of our great country transacted? This is a question which should interest everyone; as we all know, the answer is Ottawa, that beautiful city situated on the Ottawa river, opposite to the city of Hull.

But Ottawa has not always been the capital. The first capital of the United Canadas was Kingston, chosen by Lord Sydenham, in 1841. In 1843 it was decided to remove the government seat to Montreal, which was more centrally located and better able to support the dignity of a capital. However, owing to the disturbance occurring there, caused by the passing of the Rebellion Losses Act in 1849, when the Parliament Buildings were destroyed by fire and a valuable library of historical records lost, the seat of government was again changed, this time to be established alternately between Quebec and Toronto in order to satisfy the rival claims of both sections.