

We have at present an ample supply of teachers for our wants; and are not now, as formerly dependent upon our neighbours. And I cannot say too much in favor of the majority of them. There are, to be sure, in this as in every other profession, a few who should not be on the list, who are sadly out of their sphere, and whom I should be glad to see abandoning their present calling for one more suitable to their abilities; but we cannot get rid of them all at once, and others of the same class are constantly intruding themselves. These generally work for low wages, and in the eyes of some trustees, this atones for a multitude of defects.

Some Inspectors recommend that Grade E should be abolished. We are not ready for that yet in this County, nor is it probable that many others are in a more advanced position. We have a grade below E to be disposed of first, namely, those few who are working under Permissive Licenses. I would recommend that no teacher be allowed, under any circumstances to teach under a Permissive License for more than one year. Give them that time to prepare themselves and submit to the annual examination, and if they cannot then step up into grade E, let them step out and give place to those who can. A lower class of teachers than D seems to be absolutely necessary for supplying some of the poor, distant and scattered settlements; therefore we cannot yet dispense with the grade E, or something equivalent, something below grade D at any rate, by whatever name it may be designated. I think there should be no distinction between male and female teachers, they should all stand upon the same level according to their capabilities. Our female teachers are taking grade D, and some male teachers could not get higher than E.

In my visits I find a decided improvement in school-work, especially in Arithmetic and Writing. I attribute it in the latter case to the introduction of Payson, Dutton and Scribner's copies in the place of Staples'.

There are 68 Sections in the County, and it is gratifying to state that out of these, 65 have had the benefit of a public free school during one term, at least, of the past school year. Of the three remaining, one has just finished a new house and opened it with an efficient teacher, the second is talking of doing the same, while the third (colored) is in a hopeless dogged condition and could not be moved out of their lethargy by the lever of Archimedes.

During the last year I have inspected nearly every school in the County twice, and in some cases oftener; and I generally spend from 2 to 3 hours in each. Thus, I cannot accomplish more than two visitations in a day. My most distant sections are 32 miles from home in one direction and 28 in the opposite.

The standing complaint of the teachers for so many years, the want of a variety of Reading Books, has been swept away; and they are now so overwhelmed by the rush of new matter that they are at a loss from which to select. Nor is it easy to obtain from them a decided opinion of the merits of each, some preferring the Maritime Series, some the Royal Readers. That they are both good there can be no doubt, but the old Nova Scotia Readers need not yet be entirely discarded, for they contain many excellent pieces, the best of which I find appropriated by these new aspirants for popular favour.

In the twelve Reports that have preceded this, I have so thoroughly exhausted every subject usually brought forward in such documents, that it seems needless to travel over the same ground again. I will therefore bring this short statement to a close, with the hope that under your energetic supervision, our educational affairs will in the future be most successfully promoted.

I am, Sir, Your most Obedient Servant,

G. J. FARISH.

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