

EDUCATIONAL REPORTS.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

This blue book for the year ending December 31st, 1892, has been received and contains the usual General Report, Statistical Tables and Appendices. There were 68,909 pupils in attendance during the year—a decrease of 83 over 1891. The average daily attendance for the year exceeded that of any previous year since the school terms were arranged as at present. Over 21 per cent of the population of the province is enrolled in the public schools. St. John County leads the province with a percentage of attendance of 70.68 for the year. Of the cities and incorporated towns, Fredericton made the highest percentage for the year, though surpassed by St. Stephen the first term.

There were 1,674 teachers employed during the second term of 1891—an increase of 33—and 1,669 teachers employed during the first term of 1892—an increase of 37. In regard to salaries, it is to be deplored that there has been a uniform decrease in all classes, save first class females, and this at a time of unprecedented scarcity of teachers. St. John and Charlotte continue to be the best average paying counties. The average cost per pupil to the province for the year was \$5.96.

The county funds of the several counties are now chargeable with a portion of the expense of educating the deaf and blind. The Blind Asylum at Halifax received the sum of \$487.50, and the institution at Fredericton for the education of the deaf and dumb received the sum of \$810. Nearly all the counties in the province contributed to one or both of these institutions.

There were about fifty superior schools in operation in the province during the year, and the usual number of grammar schools. A comparison of the superior and grammar schools in some counties is decidedly adverse to the grammar schools, and the Chief Superintendent again remarks, "These facts indicate unmistakably the desirability of a re-organization of grammar and high schools of the province, so that results may be obtained more commensurate with the expenditure, and that the common schools, the high schools, the grammar schools and the university may be so articulated as to become a constant source of strength and growth each to the others."

A gratifying interest has been displayed in the matter of school libraries. In 17 districts 1,129 volumes were purchased at a cost of \$589.78, of which the province contributed \$195.19. Charlotte County expended the most money on libraries. The sum of \$900 was granted to build school-houses in poor

districts. Charlotte County obtained the largest amount—\$105. York County has the greatest number of poor districts—56, followed closely by Gloucester, Northumberland and Kings.

County Institutes were held in all the counties except Kent and Sunbury. Nearly 700 teachers were enrolled at these meetings. St. John County had the largest attendance—116, York comes next with 99. The attendance at the Provincial Institute, which was held in St. John, was the largest in the history of the province—260. Reference is made in the report to the Dominion and International Teachers' Associations and to the Summer School of Science.

Arbor day was observed by 482 districts, 3,622 trees, 958 shrubs and 603 flower beds were planted, while 488 districts made general improvements.

In the appendices are contained the reports of the chancellor of the university, the principal of the normal school, the inspectors, trustees of incorporated towns, cities, etc.

The Chief Superintendent concludes his report by suggesting the establishment of a kindergarten department in connection with the normal school in order that the student teachers may have an opportunity of acquiring an insight of the principles which underlie its methods.

The report is encouraging and hopeful in tone, and considering the almost stationary state of the population of the province, indicates a very substantial degree of progress in our schools. Further reference to sections of the report will be made in a future issue.

HALIFAX SCHOOLS.

The supervisor's report of school work in Halifax is before us, and we are glad to say that it is hopeful and indicative of work well done. Supervisor McKay gives the following facts: Total number of different pupils enrolled for the year, 7,310; cost per pupil for 1891, \$12.45; for 1892, \$12.32.

1. There has been a large increase in the number of regular teachers employed. At the close of the school year ending October, 1891, we had 115 teachers. There are now 121, adding those in the County Academy, in all 127.

2. Women are gradually monopolizing the teaching profession, having increased in the last ten years from 85 to 91 per cent of the whole number of teachers in the city.

The attendance is improved. Diphtheria has well-nigh vanished. The sanitary condition of the schools is in all respects better. Attendance for a certain period is obligatory and compulsory, and the law is