

villages gave an aggregate of 888, leaving but 428 for the country sections. Surely these 888 are not all waifs 'for whom no man cares.' Is there not necessity for a compulsory law of some kind to save these 1,316 children from ignorance. The number in school for some portion of the year was 265 more than in 1872."

The Inspectors' Report from Lunenburg states that there have been twenty-two vacant sections in the County during the past year, and upwards of 370 children unprovided with the means of education in the sections to which they belong. Nine of these twenty-two sections are still without School houses.

From a like source in Cape Breton County we learn that Louisburg, the old Capital of Cape Breton, which is divided into two sections, has neither school nor school-house, and the cause can be traced to the doors of a few individuals who have no school-going children, and care not for the educational interests of the hardy fisherman, upon whom they depend for the luxuries of life.

The Inspector for the County of Halifax writes as follows:

I am obliged, in common with other Inspectors, to complain of the irregularity of attendance as evinced by the disparity between the numbers on the registers and the average, and this even in sections where there is considerable general interest in education.

For example, I visited in September last several schools represented by the following numbers:

Registered.....	56	Present.....	16
"	37	"	3
"	36	"	17
"	62	"	12
"	52	"	22
"	70	"	26

Nearly half of those absent were under ten years.

"It is in vain for us to look for the general dissemination of knowledge so long as this state of things continues. Great as are the perplexities which, in this country, surround the question of compulsory education, many as are the conflicting interests to be adjusted, and strong as are the prejudices to be overcome, we must resolutely face the difficulty."

I cannot but indulge a strong hope that the section of the law making schools compulsory at least one term in the year, as passed at the last session of the Legislature, will, to a great extent, remedy the evil complained of. It is gratifying to be assured that the compulsory clause is generally recognized by the friends of