

### The Chief Superintendent's Report for New Brunswick.

A very satisfactory showing has been made by the New Brunswick schools for the year, and a marked advance has been made in nearly every direction except that of the remuneration of teachers.

The superintendent says that the year "has been one of marked expansion and activity in educational work."

The superintendent returns to the subject of high and superior schools, pointing out the weaknesses that exist, and recommending the establishment of ten high schools throughout the province. There can be no doubt but that his arguments are sound from an educational standpoint. Whatever may be said regarding the grammar schools, there is much to be said in favor of the superior schools. They are conveniently situated and traditionally necessary to the pupil in the rural district, who either cannot afford or does not care to go further from home. The additional requirements for license render these schools more necessary than ever, as the course of instruction provided for ungraded schools does not meet the requirements for II class except an assistant be employed. This is not likely to be done on account of a few advanced pupils, and the superior school is the natural resort, and it is very probable that it will be utilized more in the future than it has been in the past. It is to be hoped that the chief will be able to establish the high schools without curtailing any of the privileges of the superior schools.

In view of the very unsatisfactory nature of the examinations for admission to the high schools, it is suggested that uniform examinations be held under control of the department at the same time as the normal school entrance and high school leaving examinations. In case of the adoption of the plan, the latter examinations would be omitted. There can be no doubt that such a plan would remove a great grievance to the teachers and an obstacle to the work of many of the schools. Some of the arguments that might be urged against it, would be the imposition of fees, and the expense attendant upon a short journey from home. Another argument is that the requirements for advance vary in the city and village school; and while it would be a simple matter for the town to provide for pupils who fail to pass, it is a very serious matter at times for the village. It is here that expediency comes in, which, while bad for the internal work of the schools, is equally embarrassing for school officers, if not permitted to avail themselves of it moderately. However, there is much in the step proposed to commend it to the favorable con-

sideration of school officers and teachers, and the columns of the Review are open to discuss it.

All will agree with the superintendent in his suggestion of equalizing the burdens of taxation. According to the present assessment law, the taxes of the rich who are able to reside in the nearest town or village, are often paid there where it is needed the least. An increase of the county fund would meet the case exactly. In fact, if the schools were entirely supported from that source, it would be much fairer than at present. It is also to be desired, that no obstacle will be placed in the way of requiring school districts to employ teachers in accordance with their assessment value.

The REVIEW has more than once pointed out the anomaly of two matriculations examination varying in make up, and whether true or not, believed by many to vary in difficulty. What is still more peculiar: the county scholarships—the chief prizes of the competition—are only awarded at one of the examinations. No good reason has ever been given for this state of affairs; but the superintendent advances several very cogent ones against it, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to convince the senate of the university. If two examinations continue to prevail, few will take any interest in the matter longer.

### TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

The preliminary examinations of teachers for entrance to normal school in New Brunswick will take place as usual on the first Tuesday in July next, and it may not be amiss to offer a few suggestions regarding the same. The applications are to be all in by May 24th. See that they are in on or before that date, but do not send them as early as March or April. They nearly all contain money, and are rather a nuisance to have lying around so long. Before writing the inspector for information, consult your school manual. You will find all necessary information there. It is quite likely that the same stations will be used this year as in other years. In any case it will be time enough to enquire about that when you reach the place. Certificates of age and moral character are not to be sent to the inspector. They are not required until the candidate reaches the normal school. If you do not receive a reasonably prompt reply to your application, enquire at once if it has been received. If you enclose money, mention the fact. If you do not enclose money, be sure that you draw your pen through "enclosed \$1.00." If you are applying for the same class as that for which you tried last year, and you failed to obtain any class at that time, no fee is required.