

Mr. J. M. Harper, in the course of a very thoughtful address before the Quebec Protestant Teachers' Association, very strongly emphasized the necessity of enlarging the powers of the Inspectors, and adding more superintendence to their duties. If this is interpreted correctly, it means, in addition to the advisory powers now conferred upon them, mandatory powers as well. It means in other words that Inspectors should not only be empowered to pass upon conditions as set before them, but have larger powers to insist that improved and progressive conditions should exist and be provided for by the school sections.

Considering the generous state aid given by all the Provinces of the Dominion, very little state pressure beyond that of persuasion is exercised. Strong individuality on the part of school officers may stimulate and influence the work of the schools, but the standard of the best should be the standard of all, and there will be abundance of opportunity to improve even upon that.

It should not be, as has been permitted, that the state aid should simply be an excuse for lack of exertion on the part of the ratepayer, who is prone to regard the drawing of it his only responsibility in connection therewith.

They have done well in Australia, where the state entirely supports the schools, and takes full direction of their management and control.

Revival of Art in Nova Scotia.

In 1887 the late Mrs. J. F. Kenny, Mrs. Leonowens, and a few others interested in art, founded the Victoria School of Art and Design as a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee. It was partially endowed—the sum of fifteen thousand dollars having been raised, by subscription, by public lectures, and by a monster "World's Fair."

Previous to 1887 art was fostered in a desultory manner by private individuals. Mr. Forshaw Day taught private classes for many years. He had also a large class in the Technological School until that school became defunct, or until he was called to a professorship in the Military College at Kingston. He was succeeded by Mr. George Harvey, who, after having made for himself a high reputation as an artist, was appointed the first principal of the Victoria School of Art and Design.

For the first year there were more pupils than Mr. Harvey and his assistants were able to instruct to advantage. After the novelty had ceased, the school gradually dwindled down to small dimensions. The classes in mechanical and architectural drawing, however, showed a steady growth. The teaching was not without results, though the school was small. Several students began to look forward to art as a profession.

Two years ago Miss Katherine N. Evans, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Art Museum, was appointed principal. The school is now flourishing under her management. The students of the Halifax Ladies' College receive art instruction from Miss Evans in their own studio, and Dalhousie College acknowledges the work of the art school as part of its science course. Several times since the school was first opened there were special classes for teachers.

There are now three additional studios in Halifax. Mr. Forshaw Day, one of the best artists of the Dominion, is again in Halifax. Mrs. Maclean, after three years' training in Germany and France, has recently opened a studio, making a specialty of portrait painting. Miss Edith Smith, a former pupil of the Art School, teaches advanced pupils.

The results of the efforts put forth by the Art School for the last ten years are now beginning to be apparent. Interest in the fine arts is evidently increasing. It is not so many years since drawing and painting in the ladies' colleges consisted merely in copying from the flat. Now no student would think of wasting time on such work, much less of exhibiting any work not drawn from the object or the living model.

The teachers of our schools are beginning to learn that drawing, to be educative, must teach the child to see the characteristic lines of the object which he studies, and to reproduce them on paper.

Third Class Licenses.

There is a very strong feeling on the part of teachers that the short term third class licenses in New Brunswick should not be renewed, as it is understood is being done on the recommendation of some of the Inspectors. These licenses are granted for three years on attendance and half time at the Normal School or until Christmas, and may be renewed for another year upon the recommendation of the Inspector.

Where the supply of teachers exceeds the demand, as is generally the case, the full term teachers feel that they are at a disadvantage as compared with those of shorter time training, who by reason of this and less scholastic attainments can afford to teach at a lower rate of salary. The injustice becomes more apparent from the fact that many indifferent and parsimonious school boards regard the mere presence of a teacher in the school room as the extent of their obligation to the district, and so long as they are cheap, they take no further heed to their qualifications.

It is satisfactory to note that a large majority of the short term teachers do not wait for the expiration of their term before gaining a higher class of license, and this is a course that may be fairly demanded of