

THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE,



PROVINCIAL NORMAL, AND MODEL SCHOOLS, TRURO, N. S.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Report of the Superintendent of Education for 1859,	145	Report of Model School for the year ending April 30, 1860,	154
I. Statistical Tables,	145	TABLE A—Number of Schools and Districts—Support of Schools, &c.	155
II. Normal and Model Schools;	147	TABLE B—Number, Age and Sex of Scholars—Number of Children,	156
III. Duties as Superintendent,	148	TABLE C—Duration of Schools—Sex of Teachers—Character of Schools —School Houses,	157
IV. Suggestions—1. Taxation,	149	TABLE D—Abstract of Grammar School Returns,	148
2. School Houses in Towns and Villages,	150	TABLE E—Normal School, Truro—List of Grammar and First Class Common School Graduates,	159
3. The quantity of Education given,	160	Accounts of Journal,	160
4. Grading of Schools,	161	ADVERTISEMENTS,	160
5. The Teacher,	152		
6. Inspection of School,	153		
7. Necessity of Central Board,	154		

Vol. II.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, April, 1860.

No. 10.

EDUCATIONAL.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR 1859.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

In submitting to your Excellency my fifth annual report on the state of Education in the Province, I shall first of all make a few remarks on the tables appended; secondly, present a brief statement of proceedings in my own special field of labor; and, lastly, offer a few suggestions with a view to our educational improvement, such as the observation and experience of five years may seem to warrant.

I. STATISTICAL TABLES:

All statistical tables are founded on registration, and can, therefore, be relied upon only, in so far as this matter is carefully and accurately attended to. Such a registration in the cause of education, has not, we fear, received that measure of attention which its importance demands, and, consequently, in not a few cases, have the most erroneous conclusions been drawn in reference alike to the matter of quantity and quality.

To secure a thoroughly reliable table of statistics on edu-

cation, the first thing to be done is the construction of a Register that shall embrace the time of the admission and withdrawal of the scholars, their attendance and progress; and the next thing, is the providing of an agency by which these points shall be carefully and accurately taken down and recorded. Tables drawn up from such a registration are vastly more valuable in giving sound views of a nation's education, and, thereby furnishing a surer guide, whether, in the supply of deficiencies, or in the correction of abuses, or in its general improvement, than all the vague speculations of the theorist, or the eloquent yet conjectural statements of the philanthropist and educationist. Ever since my appointment to office, I have been expecting some alterations in our Provincial educational enactment, and have, therefore, continued to use the registers and blank returns of my predecessor. As the law now stands, these are sufficiently minute and comprehensive, and, were proper provision made for a thorough agency, they would furnish abundant data for drawing sound conclusions in reference to our educational state, whether as one of advancement or retrogression. This, however, is not the case, there being some hundreds of districts from which there are no returns at all, and these, generally speaking, are in a much worse condition than those from which reports have been obtained. The only legitimate use then we can make of these tables, is to compare them with those of the past year and to guide ourselves accordingly.