

head, or less than a quarter of what the Government grant amounts to yearly.

The number of teachers employed is 759, 63 per cent. of which number are females. The Council of Higher Education is a Board consisting of 23 members, established for the purpose of promoting sound learning and advancing the interests of higher education by holding examinations and by awarding diplomas, prizes and scholarships to successful candidates at such examinations.

In 1802 a Teachers' Pension Fund was established for the purpose of providing for the retirement of all teachers upon their reaching the age of sixty years. The school year consists of 210 days. There are four Colleges for higher education, all situated in St. John's, they are subsidized by the Legislature to the extent of \$9,565.29.

Last year the first Convention of the teachers of the colony was held at St. John's and lasted three days. One thousand dollars had been voted in 1895 to defray the cost of the gathering and aid the teachers living in the more distant parts of the colony to meet their travelling expenses. Four hundred teachers were in attendance. The programme embraced the following subjects: (1) Technical Education; (2) Kindergarten Work; (3) Pictorial Teaching; (4) The School and Its Surroundings; (5) Industrial Training; (6) Science as a Factor in Education; (7) How to Handle Mixed Schools; (8) How to Secure Good Order in a School; (9) Duties of Parents in Relation to the School. The outcome of the Convention was the establishment of a Newfoundland Teachers' Association.

IS IT WISE?

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THIS school year sees, if not the introduction of a new policy, at least the extension of an old one in regard to text-books in the languages prescribed for junior matriculation and the junior leaving examination. Is this new-old policy wise?

Some years ago the work prescribed in Greek for the examinations just mentioned was made to coincide with the contents of White's text-book now in use in the schools throughout the province, this one book doing duty for Xenophon and grammar alike. This year text-books, prepared on similar lines, have been issued in both Latin and French, and trustworthy information says that the principle is to be further applied.

Naturally the present writer may be allowed to speak about the revised French book and its additions. For the scholarship displayed in the grammar and of its many improvements over the former editions, nothing but praise of the heartiest kind can be given, for the few mistakes which appear in it will probably be corrected in a later imprint. This praise is especially merited in the case of the new and interesting exercises found in the book. The reading selections are as well arranged as they could be, considering the limitations imposed upon the editors by space and price. But, once more, is the principle of combining grammar and authors a wise one?

In the first place, the selections included in the book are those set