

to educate their children in the most efficient and economical manner. This can be attained only by means of large school sections."

In my opinion the interests of education in this Province demand in this respect the most rigid adherence to the law, as there is always a tendency to the multiplication of school sections, which, if not checked, must increase the number of weak and inefficient schools.

New Houses.—Hubbard's Cove and Indian Harbor have comfortable houses, the latter with a class room. Upper Prospect has provided three good school rooms. Ferguson's Cove has also a house, finished outside which, when completed, will cost not less than a \$1000. Dartmouth has erected a large and commodious house, very conveniently arranged, for four, and, if needed, five departments. The school rooms are all on the ground floor, and so well arranged that any one school may be assembled or dismissed without disturbing the others. Cook's, Hutchinson, and Little River, in the Rural District, Fitzpizwick East, Musquodoboit Road and Newdy Quoddy in the Eastern District, have also built new houses, making in all 16 school apartments, 13 of which are either occupied or ready for immediate use. Those unfinished will be completed by or during the Summer Term. Twelve have been put in good repair.

In order to give a clear idea of the character of our school accommodations, the following figures are appended :—

No. of school apartments in this County, 134, which may be classed as follows :—

28 Excellent,
48 Good,
32 Middling,
26 Poor, either as to the building or furniture, or both.

We have thus made undoubted progress in a very important part of our school economy during the year 1876.

Black-boards.—In many cases these are either insufficient in extent or badly prepared, and even in some of our good school houses the blackboards are of so poor a quality as to interfere much with their successful use in school work. Nothing would remedy this inconvenience more surely than the introduction of Bryne's Patent Blackboard Preparation, as it is cheap, easily applied and very durable, as I can testify from experience.

Furniture.—I have been much annoyed in some of our new buildings with the awkward character and arrangement of the desks. The workmen have either lacked interest or skill enough to enable them to work from the plans furnished, and the consequence is that, although quite sufficient money has been expended to secure neat and proportioned furniture, much of it is a complete failure.

Apparatus.—Outside of Dartmouth and a few of the larger and wealthier sections we can report but little provision made as yet. The first requisite has been suitable school accommodation; other essentials will follow.

Schools.—A glance at the Statistical Tables will show in session for

Winter Term, 106.

Summer Term, 114.

During some portion of the year, 118 in 105—Sec.

The Grand Total of Attendance, as compared with last year, gives an increase of 28,747.

The schools visited before the summer vacation made an average of attendance of 80 per cent. Those visited in the first and second weeks after vacation averaged less than 20 per cent. This, of course, materially decreases the average for the term and may be accounted for, to a great extent, by the fact that large numbers of children are busily engaged, during this season, in picking berries for the Halifax market.