

the high schools, and the syllabus for teachers' examination. Seventy-five per cent. of the best high school students are candidate teachers, who, therefore, really determine the curriculum, although a feint of following the prescribed course had to be made in the county Academies, which are subject to the annual visitation of the Superintendent. We always thought that what is good for the general high school student should also be good for the teacher. But everything, of course, depends on the regulations of the Council of Public Instruction; and these the country will now be most anxiously awaiting. It will be too much to expect that such an overturning can be made without some point being overlooked; but we have every confidence that any defect will not stand long without remedy.

Among other changes we notice that of the annual meeting of the school section to the last Monday of June, just before the close of the schools. Also the repeal of that clause of the act of 1887 limiting the sum total of grants to the county Academies. There is encouragement given to advanced scholarship by giving a provincial grant to "A" teachers employed in doing high school work, fifty per cent. greater than the "B" grant. Provincial grants will as usual be payable half-yearly; but county grants only yearly. Trustees, we presume, will be required to pay teachers at least semi-annually, as the provincial grants are to be paid. That would mean that sectional assessments should be levied in the fall or early winter, the county grant coming in with the arrears of this assessment to pay the last annual instalment. Some of these changes will leave more time for our inspectors to do their proper work instead of spending time in their offices doing clerk's works. The time of the inspectors' chief clerical work will be during the vacation, when the schools are not in session, and not as now during the whole first month of each term, when the inspectors would be especially useful in organizing new schools and helping new teachers. This vacation period must also be the time of special activity in the education office, we imagine, if provincial and county grants are to be promptly paid, and the results of examination published without delay.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

The season of Teachers' Institutes is now approaching and it behooves teachers to make their plans accordingly. What with the Provincial (N. B.) Institute in St. John, the Dominion Association in Montreal and the National Association in Saratoga, to say nothing of the Summer School of Science and

the various County Institutes, there will be no lack of opportunities to attend these meetings. The contrast between the present and twenty-five years ago with regard to Teachers' Associations is most marked. Then they were rare, now they are held everywhere. To these meetings the teacher of to-day owes not a little of the improved *status* of the teaching profession as compared with that of twenty-five years ago. "In union is strength" is well exemplified in these associations which are now recognized by Boards of Education everywhere as mediums through which all educational reforms and improvements may be promoted. They have created a public opinion in regard to educational affairs that has been most beneficial to the teachers and to the schools. They have enlarged and broadened the teachers' ideas, led them to appreciate more fully the dignity and responsibility of their profession, and stimulated them to improvement in knowledge and method.

They have brought the teachers more in contact with the public, by which a sympathy for and an interest in the work of teaching has been created. They have demonstrated that the teachers as a body are not actuated by mere mercenary motives but that they are earnestly desirous of improving themselves and by profiting by the experience of others to do better work.

While these meetings of teachers are more largely attended each year, yet they do not attract all. The earnest, progressive teacher always attends the County Institutes and the larger meetings when possible. Time servers never appear, but while they may save a few dollars at the time they sustain a permanent loss, not only in regard to their own improvement, but in the estimation in which they may be held as teachers thereafter. Trustees and school officers are beginning to take note of teachers who do not keep step with the times.

EXTENSION OF THE SUMMER VACATION.

It is a mistake to suppose that the summer vacation in New Brunswick has been lengthened in the interests of the teachers. While none of the teachers are likely to object to the extension, they as a body have taken no united action to bring it about, and the change was not made in deference to their wishes, but owing to the pressure that was brought to bear by Boards of Trustees from nearly every section of the Province.

It has been recognized for some time and been pointed out by the Inspectors that more and more schools each year were taking the matter of summer vacations in their own hands and extending them at