

of Elementary Handwork in the primary schools, and the establishment of technical classes in the centres. The Inspectors' reports are in most cases full and definite and offer many suggestions for thought. There is very general approval of the increasing attention given to nature study and school gardening and the consequent interest in rural life given to the children. Nearly all deplore the constant changing about of teachers in the country schools.

Included in the volume are the reports of the school for the Blind, and the schools for the Deaf, and the report of the Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick.

NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOLS.

Superintendent A. H. MacKay in his annual report says that the year's work has been the most progressive in the educational history of the Province. The total enrolment of pupils in the schools has increased by over 1,200 since last year. The quarterly percentage of attendance has risen to 71.7 per cent in all the schools, and in the County Academies to 83.7 per cent. The number of schools in session show an increase of thirty in one year. There were only 85 vacant schools, nearly one-half of which have now no school population, or are served by schools of adjoining sections. There has been an increase in the number of teachers, especially of the higher class, and, we are glad to note, a general increase in the salary of every class of teacher, both men and women.

The Superintendent quotes as evidence of an improvement in educational conditions, that the number of men teachers of all the higher classes has begun to increase. A generous response has been made to the appeal for higher salaries, but further efforts in this direction are needed. It is strongly recommended that the Municipal Fund (which has not been increased in proportion to the increases made in the Sectional and Provincial contributions) should be raised from 35 cents to 50 cents per unit of population. This increase has already been made in Cumberland and Victoria Counties, and it is hoped will become general.

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught will visit different points in Newfoundland during the second week in July.

WOODLAND FERNS.

J. VROOM.

Including the Flowering Ferns and the Moonworts, which are generally called ferns, about forty different species of ferns have been reported as growing in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. If we count out the three species of the Flowering Fern or Osmunda group, the Royal Fern, the Cinnamon Fern and the Interrupted Fern, not now recognized as true ferns, and also the five Moonworts, which are in a class by themselves, we have a little more than thirty left to make up the list. Some of these are extremely rare; some, perhaps, of doubtful occurrence. Possibly not more than fifteen or twenty species can be found within the borders of any one county in the three provinces. Dry hillsides, moist cliffs, rich woods, and wet meadows, each have their own group of attractive ferns. We will confine our attention for the present to those which we might expect to find in a day's tramp through the woods.

To know a fern when we see it, and be able to distinguish between ferns and flowering plants, is not a very useful accomplishment; to be able to see the beauty of a fern is an acquisition of much greater value. The bright colours of our field and garden flowers appeal to young children, and the quieter colours and markings of woodland blossoms to the older ones, without much training; but the beauty of ferns is chiefly in their lines of growth, a beauty discernible only to the trained eye, for the appreciation and love of the beauty of pure form is almost wholly a matter of training.

The delicate texture, the variety of forms, the graceful sweep and firm outline of the fronds in some species, in some the inimitable disposition of the fruit dots, like a rich embroidery of needlework, together with the knowledge that they are so different from other plants as to seem almost like the products of another world, account for our love of ferns. Only mosses can equal them in beauty of form; and only the mosses seem so much to belong to the localities in which they are found. Ferns and mosses alike are an inseparable part of the beauty of the spot. Their charm can be destroyed by the devastating hand of the collector, but cannot be carried away.

To pull up and carry off a wild plant that