

Educational Reports.**The Schools of Nova Scotia.**

The report of Dr. A. H. MacKay, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, is very interesting reading. Not only is there a full discussion of educational conditions in that province, but comparisons with other countries are very enlightening. The improved title page and the modest buff-gray cover, instead of the tell-tale official blue, are outward and visible signs that suggest interior renewal; and the reader will not be disappointed. Of the many excellent reports of Dr. MacKay, this is perhaps the best from its stimulating tone and note of progress.

The year ending July 31, 1908, Dr. MacKay reports, has been one of unusual activity and advancement in nearly every department of educational work. The schools increased from 2,465 to 2,516, an accession of fifty-one for the year, but the increase of pupils was only 98, showing that many rural schools are decreasing in numbers owing to a decreasing school population. Female teachers increased by 37 and male teachers by only one, giving the ratio of 2,309 women to 355 men—nearly seven to one. In the high school the attendance of girls and boys is in the proportion of two to one. In the majority of counties third class female teachers receive from the trustees a larger salary than third class male teachers. The colleges also show an increase in the number of women, and Dr. MacKay points out that if this continues "the female sex will be the predominantly educated sex."

Teachers, trained at the provincial normal college, decreased by twenty during the year, owing to the attractions in the West for teachers holding normal college diplomas. This has had the effect of reviving a former regulation, also in force in New Brunswick, making the course free only to those students who intend to teach at least three years in the province.

In the new technical sub-department schools, chiefly situated in the industrial towns of Eastern Nova Scotia, there were 1,309 students. These schools, with the technical college now approaching completion in Halifax, and the increasingly large number of students at the agricultural college, Truro, show that the province is meeting the demand for training in the useful arts.

A gratifying feature in the report is the desire on the part of the educational authorities to give the poorest and least populated sections of the province the benefit of the free schools; 310 schools

with an average of about seven pupils, and several schools with only three or four scholars have been kept open. The reports of the inspectors on closed schools is interesting reading. In one inspectorate, which boasts of but two closed schools, the following terse reasons are given: "In one section there are no children to go to school; in the other no one can be found to board the teacher."

The Schools of New Brunswick.

Chief Superintendent Dr. Inch reports a year of progress and growing interest in educational matters. Several fine new school buildings have been erected and many enlarged, renovated and better equipped. In average attendance and the internal work of the schools substantial improvement has been made in spite of serious epidemics in many places which caused work to be suspended for a longer or shorter period.

A comparison of the salaries of teachers during the past eight years shows a considerable increase, especially of first class teachers, male and female. The number of male teachers is steadily declining, so that now the proportion is a little less than one to seven of female teachers. There were 100 first class male teachers in 1890 and 57 in 1908. Most of these are now employed in cities and towns where the highest salaries are paid.

The total enrolment of pupils in the normal school for the year was 341, the second largest in the history of the institution. The increased attendance (in 1909 it is larger than last year) calls for extended building accommodation, which Principal Bridges emphasizes in his report.

The report of Mr. T. B. Kidner, director of manual training, shows a steady advance in that branch. Two new departments have been opened, others enlarged, and there is gratifying progress in this and in the household science departments.

The inspectors' reports are interesting reading, and many suggestions are offered for improvement in local educational conditions. Inspector Steeves and Inspector Meagher report an improvement in changed sanitary conditions of many schoolhouses and outbuildings. Inspector O'Brien notes improvement in methods employed in teaching many subjects of the course. Inspector Carter advocates a change in the time of holding the annual school meeting to the first Monday in July, and draws attention to the fact that three ratepayers may do business at an annual meeting, whereas the popular impression has been that it requires five.