

The old school building beside the Macdonald building, has been transformed at an expense of over \$1500 into a practical science building, containing, the Chemical laboratory, Mechanic Science room, Domestic Science, and a spare room already serving for some useful purposes.

This large consolidation group was selected by Dr. Robertson, in order to test the capabilities of the greater extreme. Smaller consolidations can from this experiment be seen at a glance to be cheaper. The loss of the labor of both horses and drivers between the opening and the closing of schools appears to be the weak economic factor in the present arrangement. But competition may in the course of the next two years solve the problem even in this extreme case. For general purposes this experiment will be much more valuable than one with a smaller number of sections, for it will prove practically what can be economically done in consolidations of all degrees to the maximum of a territory with a radius of 5 to 6 miles.

By next fall the cost of building and equipping, and of conveyance, etc., for one year, will be exactly determined. There is therefore no occasion to supplement the estimates in the last Education Report until the first year's expenses can be exactly stated.

Consolidation Without Conveyance.

Since the last school year both Inspectors and School Commissioners have already made a good commencement in several parts of the province in consolidating small sections so as to bring them up to the normal size in which conveyance is unnecessary—four miles in diameter. This year it is hoped the good movement may be still further accelerated in every quarter of the province.

Consolidation With Subsidized Conveyance.

The new regulation, 10 (c), commented upon elsewhere, gives an opportunity to some localities, if inspectors can be satisfied, to consolidate with some aid for the conveyance of a few pupils in distant wings of the enlarged section.

The \$36,000 Vote.

This will average \$2,000 to each county. As consolidation with conveyance of pupils is presumed to be true economy when everything is considered, it is not deemed a good principle to offer large grants for the first experiments. It is considered by most of the parties consulted that no more than \$1,000 should be granted to any single group. If more than \$1,000 is necessary to stimulate a group of sections to consolidate, how can we expect other groups to consolidate without any such special grant at all?

The Superintendent of Education was authorized to intimate that the following scheme was being considered. Subject to certain minor conditions, \$200 or \$250 might be granted to aid in building the consolidated school building, for each normal-sized rural section brought into the central one—the total in no case to exceed \$1,000. That means that a consolidation of two sections should receive \$200; of three, \$400; of four, \$600; of five, \$800; or of six \$1,000;—should the smaller sum of \$200 be taken as the unit. Such a plan might stimulate several larger or smaller groups in each county. It is generally maintained that a larger sum would be merely a big plum for some community, while it might depress rather than encourage general consolidation without any aid.

Groups first specifying an agreement to consolidate will be the first to be considered, as a matter of course; but there can be no participation in this grant on account of the simple union of small sections which should never have been separated.

School Gardens.

This year we shall have samples of the Sir William Macdonald School Gardens—one at the Macdonald Consolidated School at Middleton under the charge of Principal McGill; and five in the Macdonald nature-study group in the neighborhood of Truro under the direction of Percy J. Shaw, B. A. A pretty school garden is in existence in Truro, on the Normal School grounds. Now is the time for our indigenous gardens to come to the front; for within this year the exotic Macdonald gardens will be in bloom. The best photograph sent in will be reproduced in the October JOURNAL.