

YARMOUTH COUNTY.

G. J. FARISH, Inspector.

SIR,—

It becomes my pleasant duty at the close of the year to render you, for the first time in your official capacity, a Report of the present condition of the Schools of the County of Yarmouth, their progress and their prospects.

For the time that has passed since the commencement of the present Act, there has been, with the exception of the past year, a steady, and in most cases, a rapid advance in all matters relating to the Educational interests of the County. During the last year we have, in some cases, barely held our own ground, owing mainly to the excessive stringency of the times, which operates in retarding education as well as the leading industries of the County. When no ships are built and no remunerative freights are to be obtained, our people are compelled to curtail their school expenses as well as those of their houses.

That there has however been progress in some particulars may be seen by comparing the Abstracts of 1876 with those of 1877. In them we find as follows:—

		1876	1877	Gains.
Number of Teachers and Assistants,	Winter....	79	81	2
“ “ “	Summer....	82	84	2
Number of Pupils registered,	Winter....	3827	4280	453
“ “ “	Summer....	3874	4007	633
Total days' attendance,	Winter....	268932	296687	27755
“ “ “	Summer....	239884	267893	27509
Square feet of black-board,	Whole year.	15022	16273	1251
Number of Wall maps,	“	270	308	38
“ Globes,	“	40	47	7
“ Dictionaries,	“	36	41	5
“ Clocks,	“	63	65	2
Salaries of Teachers,	“	\$19217	\$21138	\$1921

Our Resources were.....	\$37488
“ Expenditure was.....	31152
“ Indebtedness is.....	4247
“ Value of School property is.....	90840

So that financially, we are in a very satisfactory position to commence another year; and can in most respects compare favourably with any other County in the Province.

But we have further gains not so well expressed by figures. The teachers are of a superior class, decidedly improving each year in their ability and in their work. They also teach a longer time than formerly; for it is a rare thing that a school is closed before the expiration of the term, or within a few days of it, except from sickness or some other unavoidable cause. A whole term is the rule, less than that the exception. The school-houses too have in many cases been repaired and refurnished.