

pupils than usual have been in attendance, their improvement has been very obvious and the half yearly examinations, in which several of the visitors present took part, have proved in a high degree satisfactory. In the other departments good work has also been done by female teachers of the first class. The children in each room have been well-trained before going higher.

The following schools were graded:—Shelburne, Lockeport, Osborne, Clyde, Hibbert's Brook, Passage, Wood's Harbor, McGray's and Clark's Harbor. The advantages of gradation are so apparent that in other sections there is a prospect of houses being enlarged for the same purpose.

The most of our schools are tolerably supplied with books. The Nova Scotia series of Readers are still largely retained. Into a few schools the Royal Readers have been introduced and are much liked. The Spelling Book succeeded in is general use. Of Arithmetics we have Mulholland's, Eaton and Frazee's and Greenleaf's. Of Grammar's, Lennie's and McCabe's, the latter in the higher schools. In History, Collier's British, Campbell's and Calkin's old edition of N. S., and Harper's Maritime. Calkin's Geographies; and Greenleaf's and Chamber's Mathematics. In many schools there is an insufficiency of writing books. Parents sometimes neglect to purchase them and progress in this branch is retarded. "Payson, Dunstan and Scribner's" and "Staples' Series" are the most in use.

Drawing is not much practised, so that "model cards" are seldom seen. There is need of some means of imparting instruction in this important art to teachers so that they may know how to teach their pupils.

Nelson's maps of the Hemispheres and McKinlay's Nova Scotia are found in nearly every school room. In several a good supply of other maps are to be met with. The average is about four to a school. Thirteen schools have globes, about three-fourths have clocks, most have hand bells, twenty-five have English Dictionaries, two Gazetteers, and two have prints and diagrams. There are not any thermometers, models of solids, cabinets of natural history, nor chemical and philosophical apparatus. Blackboards are tolerably well supplied, there being about an average of one hundred square feet to each school room. From the above it will be seen that requisite apparatus is not yet provided.

The A returns are nearly all satisfactory, but three-fourths of the B returns were faulty. Trustees complain of what they call unnecessary questions, some of which they do not understand.

At the teachers examination in July last forty candidates were successful, most of whom were from the schools of the County. Of these eight came from the Academy and eight from the school at Barrington Passage.

As an incentive to diligence and a test of the knowledge acquired by the pupils in the different schools of the County, the Board of School Commissioners for the District of Shelburne has arranged for a competitive examination, open to pupils throughout the County, in April next, when suitable prizes will be awarded to the successful competitors. Such examinations bring the teachers and scholars of different schools together, enable them to measure with each other their intellectual acquisitions and serve to stimulate them to more vigorous efforts for the future.

It will be seen from the tables and from what we have written that in some of our sections the people are still without schools, and their children without school instruction, that in many other sections the attendance of the pupils is very irregular, (the average percentage being about sixty) that several of the teachers are of the lower grades, and that a large number change schools at the close of each term. These are evils that need to be remedied.

The Act requires a school in each section, at least six months of the year, yet, every year there are sections without schools any portion of the time. So