

that he soon drops off in a doze! Trustees have more than once described these farmer-teachers as 'just going into school to rest themselves.' This is a matter which only the people can remedy by refusing to employ this unprofitable class of schoolmasters."

In 1880 was introduced a system of classification of Graded Schools based on merit alone. Up to this year first-class schools were established by a vote of the Board of Education and retained their rank without any regard to efficiency. They are now raised to that rank whenever they reach the standard fixed by the Chief Superintendent of Education. This step has made these schools centres of educational activity. Those of them that ceased to be such were dropped from the list of first-class schools and assigned an inferior rank until by merit they again won the position lost.

The Provincial Teachers' Association was instituted in 1880. It was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1896. This Association is in a very progressive and prosperous condition. It meets once a year.

In 1881 a general "Course of Studies" for the grading of the Public Schools was adopted. In the same year a general system of entrance examinations to the Prince of Wales College and Normal School was established. These examinations are under the control and direction of the Chief Superintendent of Education.

In the following year several important amendments were made to the Public Schools' Act which greatly in-

creased its efficiency. In 1883 the study of Agricultural Chemistry was introduced into the schools of the Island, and two years later an Arbor Day was established for the schools.

In 1861 a census was taken and the schoolhouses were found to number 302, the teachers 280. In 1870 the total number of schools was 372 and scholars 15,000. In 1874 the number of schools was 403, of scholars 18,233. The salaries of teachers then ranged from \$113.56 to \$324.44. In 1878 there were 465 schools, 413 teachers and 19,240 scholars. In 1881 there were 486 schools, 463 teachers and 21,601 pupils. In 1887 there were 437 schools, 505 teachers employed, and 22,460 pupils. To-day we have 467 schools, employing 579 teachers and having an enrolment of 21,845 pupils. The salaries paid teachers range from \$130 to \$783.

Our schools to-day are in a healthy and flourishing condition; they are no longer held down by brute force or taught incompetently or irrationally. The teachers of this province are alert and active as a body and do their duties faithfully. The C.P.R. express is no farther ahead of the lumbering stage coach than the P.E.I. school of to-day is ahead of the school of twenty years ago. The moral, social, intellectual, and industrial circumstances of the people have all changed. The old log schoolhouse is a thing of the past, and our school buildings, with very few exceptions, are very comfortable, well furnished, and well lighted.

To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quickly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, babes and

sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never; in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common. This is to be my symphony.