

Judges should present themselves and unmask the teacher. The number of parents and visitors at such examinations is always small, sometimes only two or three. With the exception of cases of excuses from sickness or fore-closure of the school, the omission of the semi-annual examination is a pretty good test of the teachers standing.

Teachers' Salary.—The aggregate sectional salary of teachers and assistants is \$5911, and their provincial allowance \$2006 31, making the whole salary of teachers and assistants for the year \$7917.73.

Sectional Expenditure.—The whole sectional expenditure for the year amounts to \$8620.64. Of this sum \$5911.42 go towards the salary of teachers, and the remainder, \$2709.22, stands to meet all demands for building, repairs, fuel, books, commissions, &c.

Pupils enrolled.—1469 pupils were registered at school during the Winter term, and 1595 during the Summer term, making the grand total days of attendance 88399 for the first term, 93355 for the second term, and 183574 for the year; showing thereby an average of 797 pupils in regular attendance every authorized teaching day during the school year.

Books.—These are undoubtedly the indispensable instruments that every pupil needs to work up his education, and yet the insufficient supply thereof is the subject of more complaint than the want of any other requisite. The insufficiency arises from several causes, in some instances, from the poverty, in others from the indifference, of parents, while in many cases the provision is voted down at the annual meeting. The consequence of this improvidence is that the school cannot be properly classified and that children pass the whole school hours without a book to study from. In the town where books are sold in the vicinity of the school, the children or their parents can (at least those who have means) easily enough procure the necessary books when required. But in the country, where none are sold, it is almost impossible for the pupils to send abroad for the books they need, at least very few can have the chance of doing so. Some means ought to be adopted to remedy this evil, which is the principal impediment to the general welfare of the school and the progress of the pupils. In every section we always find a certain number of individuals who are prone upon requiring the necessary provision of books and other requisites of the scholars to be made up by the patents outside of the sectional school fund. We know that this is not with the spirit of the law, for it emphatically provides to the contrary. It would be quite an important move to the advantage of our schools if some book-seller would provide a stationery of school material in the district in the hands of a competent agent. The public would be benefitted as well as the book-seller.

Apparatus.—There is still a great want of black-boards, maps and other apparatus in many of the schools in the district, though indeed the number of these useful accessories have been somewhat increased during the year. There are several schools provided with black-boards, which the teachers either neglect or do not know how to use.

School Returns.—With two or three exceptions these documents have come to hand this year in a tolerably good condition. I had to send back only two for revision. I hope to see the improvement adopted from year to year.

Law Amendments.—The late amendments of the law, repealing the clause which exempted from taxation an amount of property equal to \$600 in possession of men sixty years of age, had been for some time desired in many sections and is received with much satisfaction, while the exemption of the poll-tax, in compensation to these old men, is considered a sufficient boon. Another not less important addition to the law is the clause that requires the appointments of auditors to receive and examine the accounts of the section, before going to the annual meeting. It will be the means, I hope, of preventing conflicts such as we had to deplore during the year in Meteghan River.