

## TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Considerable discussion has taken place regarding the fourth clause of the new agreement as published in the last N. B. School Manual. For the benefit and information of all concerned I may explain it more at length. Let us suppose a case, say, that there are in round numbers 120 teaching days in the first term of the school year and 90 teaching days in the second term. The agreement is for \$200 for the school year, or at that rate. If the teacher teaches 120 days, or the whole of the first term, she should receive  $\frac{11}{10}$  of \$200, or \$104.29 for the first term, and  $\frac{3}{10}$  of \$200, or \$85.71, for the second term.

The change in the agreement has been made necessary by the unequal length of the terms of the school year, and teachers should be very careful in making contracts, lest they receive less than they expect for the present term. I fear that for the present term some confusion may arise. Some teachers have, no doubt, agreed at the rate of so much for the school term ending December 31st. In such a case I think the teacher is entitled to the full amount agreed upon, but at the same time teachers should have a care that the agreement is made according to the prescribed form, which is at the rate of so much for the school year. Both by regulation and the teacher's oath no other form of agreement is allowable.

Some trustees will not hire except at the rate of so much by the month, with the avowed intention of allowing the teachers nothing for the holidays, and to make this scheme more plausible they extend the summer vacation in order that they may only have to pay an even five or four months' salary. Some remedy should be devised for this, and such boards should be awarded their county fund in the same way.

Many school boards in poor districts do not seem clearly to understand the nature or amount of the poor aid they receive. Some are under the impression that the only advantage they receive is the  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  additional they receive on the county fund grant, and do not appear to comprehend that the teacher also receives  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  more on her government allowance, which should go to the relief of the district and should be taken into account when the agreement is made. If such a plan is not followed, the teacher obtains so much extra. Whenever the trustees do not seem aware of the nature of the poor aid, it is only fair and honorable on the part of the teachers to explain matters before signing the agreement. Some trustees find out this after the agreement is signed and then seek to have allowance made. In such a case they are powerless unless the teacher is willing.

In all cases where poor aid is given, the teachers should add it to the amount of salary mentioned in the agreement in making their returns.

## Teachers in Council.

## P. E. ISLAND EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Teachers' Association of P. E. Island was held September 27-29 in the Philharmonic Hall, Charlottetown. This convention was one of the most successful held in point of numbers attending, there being upwards of 300 teachers in attendance, and in importance of business transacted.

First Session.—Chief Superintendent of Education McLeod, President of the Association, in a few practical remarks opened the convention. After the appointment of the several committees a short discussion took place on the desirability of changing the school hours in the country districts. It was afterwards resolved to request the Board of Education to change the present hours, closing school in the summer season from 4 to 3 o'clock p. m.

Mr. J. D. Seaman introduced the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW to the attention of the teachers, requesting their aid in making it more distinctly the organ of the P. E. Island teachers by contributing to its columns and by subscribing for it.

The second session was opened by Miss Snadden, giving an account of the Summer School of Science which was held last year in Sackville. She dwelt upon the educative influence it had. Mr. Seaman followed on the same subject. He dwelt chiefly on the financial side of the question, and the subjects taught and the teachers. The importance of this school so forced itself upon the teachers that a resolution was unanimously carried authorizing the executive committee to petition the government, asking that one week more vacation be granted to those teachers who attend the School of Science than to those who do not. The school meets in Charlottetown next year.

R. W. Campbell opened the discussion on the teaching of English. He claimed that the weak point in our teaching of English was in expression. As a remedy for this he suggested that pupils should express their answers to questions in class-work in complete sentences.

In the evening a public meeting was held, Mayor Haviland presiding. It is encouraging to find our public men so interested in education. Hon. L. H. Davies gave a forcible and practical address. He impressed upon the teachers the necessity of familiarizing themselves with one another, to make themselves specialists in one subject, for that is the only way in which a man can come to the front in these days. He also urged the teachers to let no false modesty hinder them in exerting themselves for the