

Teaching in an American High School

FROM year to year girls about to graduate from Maritime colleges and anxious to teach ask "How can I get a position in the United States, and what is the work like in a High School?"

So when the Editor of the *ATHENÆUM* asked me to contribute to his magazine this year, it occurred to me that by trying to answer these questions I might be of more assistance than if the subject of my article should be "Freedom of the Will," or "The Struggle between Labor and Capital," or anything else that I used to know thoroughly!

It must be borne in mind that what is said is based on a somewhat narrow experience and observation in a beautiful New England city. Yet there may be enough of general truth to prove of some slight value.

In the first place, how can a graduate of Acadia or any other Maritime college obtain a position in the United States? Unless one has a number of influential friends engaged in work in secondary schools it is absolute necessary to join a Teachers' Agency, and even then it is advisable. If one hopes to teach in September, join in the March or April proceeding.

We will assume that the candidate is willing or anxious to teach in New England and so joins agencies in Boston. Probably three are none too many to join, and care should be taken in the selection. Often a small agency will do more for a candidate without experience than one of the larger and more famous firms. They are all anxious to secure candidates and will cheerfully send all information on application. The average fee for two years' membership is two dollars, but for some it is three. They ask a five per cent commission on the first year's salary when they secure one a position.

Some girls have secured positions without going to Boston, but this is unusual and is generally only accomplished when there are friends at court. Accordingly, if a candidate can go sometime in June (authorities differ as to the best date) and patiently bombard the agencies till they capitulate, the chances of success are greater. The Young Women's Christian Association furnishes board and lodging at reasonable rates, and the rooms are clean and comfortable. It is wise