

three years at a time, the chairman being appointed by the government, while the rest is elected (in towns) by the town council and (in the rural parts) by the inhabitants of the school district.

In towns and villages and in various rural districts, 'stationary' schools have been established where children within the prescribed age are required to be taught for a period of six months in the year. Where stationary schools have not been established, either 'movable' schools have been provided in which every child between the ages of ten and fourteen receives instruction for at least two months a year, or a teacher must be engaged to look after the education given in the homes within each educational area. In 1924—1925 62 districts had provided stationary schools; 119 districts had movable schools, where the teaching was imparted in some 300 different localities; and in 12 districts teachers had been engaged for the purpose of superintending the home-teaching. In some of the stationary schools the annual period of instruction exceeds six months. In the movable schools the same teacher 'ambulates' between two, three (or, rarely, four or more) localities at different seasons of the year.

The chief subjects taught at the elementary schools are: Icelandic (including writing), Religion, Arithmetic, Geography, Natural History, and (in the stationary schools) also History. The first three of these are obligatory on almost every child during its whole attendance at school, whereas the last three are obligatory only part of the time attendance is required. Besides the obligatory subjects it is usual in the stationary schools to give instruction in Singing, Gymnastics, Drawing, Sloyd (boys), and Needlework (girls).

While elementary education is entirely free for all children of school age, a low fee is charged in a few districts for those who are not bound to attend. The expenditure is defrayed partly by the State, partly by the parishes (municipalities), the former paying one-third of the salaries to all the teachers at the town schools, and one-half of the salaries to those engaged at any other elementary school, whether 'stationary' or 'movable', in which teaching is imparted for a period of six months at least per annum. In addition to this the State pays all allowances in respect of the increased cost of living as well as periodic increments for years of service.