

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., SEPT. 2, 1910.

The Wolfville Schools.

The different departments of the Wolfville school re-open on Tuesday of next week. A week's delay has been occasioned by the extra time taken in completing necessary work. The heating plant which has been in the school building for about seventeen years has been replaced with a new system of hot water heating. Two Guernsey furnaces, with radiators in all the class-rooms, cloak-rooms and corridors, have been installed. The old registers in the lower corridors have been utilized for foot-warmer for the children who come from a distance, and will also afford an opportunity to dry damp clothing before the school opens.

A three-basin enamel lavatory has been placed in the lower corridor, which will be a great convenience.

All floors in the basement have been laid in concrete, also floors of the toilets. Proper ventilation of both the boys' and girls' toilets is now arranged by means of bell-mouthed vents in the ceilings, which connect by a shaft with the ventilating stack. The toilets are bricked off from the furnace-rooms and open with double acting heavy doors. All the old ventilating registers have been taken out, and a new system put in. The class-rooms and cloak-rooms are each connected with separate ventilating shafts, which go direct to the attic and are then carried across to the large brick stack. This should ensure a perfect ventilating system. Fresh air is brought into the rooms by means of registers in the windows, which allow the air to pass over a heated radiator warming it before it reaches the room.

The heating and ventilating plans were drawn by Mr. L. R. Fair, and the work was well performed by Mr. E. J. Delaney, contractor. The whole undertaking has been carried out in a workmanlike manner. It has been estimated that the saving in fuel alone will be almost enough to pay the interest on the cost of the plant. The rooms have all been thoroughly cleaned. In addition to this work the playgrounds on the girls' side have been graded and terraced, and concrete steps added considerably to the appearance of the building.

The building and grounds will be open to the public on Monday afternoon next, from 3 to 6 o'clock, for inspection, and the commissioners will be pleased to have every parent who is interested in the school to call and see what has been done.

Temperance Picnic.

Notwithstanding the threatening attitude of the weather on Friday morning last the Temperance picnic and rally at Berwick camp grounds was well attended. Train and teams brought in large numbers from the surrounding country and it is estimated that at least 800 persons enjoyed the exercises of the day. Had the weather been fine there is no doubt but that the attendance would have been very much larger.

Shortly after the arrival of the train from Halifax a meeting of the Kings County Temperance Alliance was held in the Children's Temple, at which there was a good attendance of members, and where the business requiring attention was promptly transacted.

Dinner was served in the dining room by the ladies of the Methodist church who were kept busy for about two hours satisfying the needs of the hungry.

At about 1 o'clock the public meeting was called to order by President Newcombe, and after a number of selections were played by the Berwick brass band, called upon Rev. Dr. Brown and Rev. P. S. MacGregor for short prayers.

Brief addresses were made by President Newcombe, and Messrs. C. A. Campbell, M. L. A., and N. W. Eaton, after which Rev. Dr. Pringle was called upon.

Bubbling over with humor of the healthiest type, and with the spirit of true love for his fellow men, Dr. Pringle's address was one long to be remembered. With unparagoned tongue and good old-fashioned Saxon words he lashed the vices so common in public life. So long as the devil is in politics it is the duty of Christian ministers and all other Christians to stay in politics and fight him. That the devil is in our politics he showed pretty clearly, especially in his description of the foulness of the Yukon for which "the poor miners are far less responsible than are some of you who voted for the men who sustained it." The first question to ask regarding a candidate is not, Does he support my party? Is he a Free Trader or a Protectionist? but, Is he a man of principle? Will he do right regardless of consequences to self or party?

Mr. Newcombe made a brief closing address in which he referred to the importance of securing candidates of the right class for the Municipal Council at the election to be held in November.

Rev. Mr. Bryant pronounced the benediction.

Rev. J. B. Sutherland, of Halifax, who with Mr. Sutherland has been spending some weeks in town, has very acceptably filled the pulpit of St. Andrew's church on three Sundays. His sermons have been excellent and helpful and very much appreciated by the congregation. Rev. Mr. Sutherland is one of the most clever young men of the Presbyterian church, and undoubtedly had a bright career before him.

The Reviewer.

THAT AWFUL "FOOTNOTE."

It appears that in the Methodist creed there has continually appeared a most disagreeable "Footnote," so called, which prohibited dancing, card-playing, theatre-going, going to horse-races, smoking, and other un-filigious amusements. The general conference, which has just been meeting at Victoria, B. C., has repealed this obnoxious curtailment of liberty, and it, therefore, becomes a matter of interest throughout and far beyond Methodist circles.

When it was adopted free-will was much more esteemed in theory than recognized in practice. The Methodists must now wonder that this "footnote" was so long submitted to, having in view the strides of political reform during the past century. When the rights and liberties of people become so ample as they are in this country, we do not bow readily to restraints put upon such as are members of churches.

The prohibiting of certain amusements and diversions was not considered reactionary in the early days of Wesleyanism, and no one will deny that the "footnote" played an important part in making the Methodist church the power for good it became. But democratic though that church has always been, its history, even on this continent, covered a considerable period in which the application of democratic ideas to government was far short of what it is to-day. Hence in Methodism, "authority" obtained a place and force similar to what it held in other religious bodies, and it was not deemed inconsistent with the modern spirit and popular character of the new church that it should enjoin certain duties and forbid certain practices. Wesley's great movement began among the masses who were slowest to realize the full benefits of civil liberty, and who were least in the habit of depending on their own views.

And to such masses the banning of certain common causes of stumbling was undoubtedly helpful. Moral rigor is of the very nature of new religious organizations that spring up as a protest against spiritual deadness, worldliness, or corruption in an official or parent church. Such bodies not uncommonly prescribe rules for the daily life of their members and prescribe practices that are regarded as the besetting vices or follies of the time. It was as a movement in the interest of morals that the Reformation itself began. Before Luther became separate in doctrine his opposition to Rome was on account of the unholiness of life of many of the clergy of his day.

The oppressive jurisdiction of ecclesiastical authorities has been the basis of Christianism. Puritanism was the form taken by the revolt against the church of England in the time of Elizabeth and the Stuarts. To-day we regard the condemnation of the maypole, mince pie, and Christmas festivities as absurd extremes of zeal for religion. A time was sure to come in this age of ever widening freedom when the Methodist "footnote" would cease to have binding force. People are bound to use their own conscience and common sense in regard to the harmless pastimes disallowed by any church. Such rigorous interdicting in regard to amusements are bound to become, as they really have already, practically obsolete.

The Conference has wisely substituted an admonition for the express and authoritative footnote, and in that admonition it has refrained from particularizing the things to be avoided. Some church members there will always be who are more learned than the great body of their brethren, but the simplest of normally constituted people are at no disadvantage in the matter of moral sense. All know the difference between right and wrong, and no church regulation is needed to show us the point at which our self-indulgence is undue or our example is bad. The "footnote" has outlived its usefulness and properly disappears from the Methodist discipline.

A Distinguished Native.

Dr. Benjamin Rand, of Harvard University, is now visiting his relatives in this his native county. Dr. Rand graduated from Acadia in 1875, since which he has made for himself more than ordinary reputation as a scholar and author. He studied at Harvard University, then at Newton Theological Institute. He obtained the Walker Fellowship of Harvard University under which he studied in Germany 1882-1885. Dr. Rand has been associate professor of Philosophy at Harvard since 1885; also instructor in English at the Massachusetts School of Technology. He is a member of the American Historical Association, the American Philological Association, the American Philosophical Association, the International Geographical Conference held in London 1895. Librarian of Philosophy, Harvard University.

As an author Dr. Rand has had a very wide renown because of the variety of subjects treated and the great value of his works, historical, philosophical, economic and biographical. His "Modern Classical Philosophy," from Bruno to Herbert Spencer is said to be a work of great value among universities and college men.

Dr. Rand received B. A. and M. A. degrees from Acadia and B. A., M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from Harvard.

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Maritime Union and Some Reasons For It.

The question of Maritime Union is coming to stay until dealt with in some decisive manner by the electorate. The time is opportune for the campaign. Union is worth discussing and worth adopting. It may be years before the consummation of any form of union, but that events are leading in that direction, there is not the shadow of a doubt.

Many political thinkers in this part of the Dominion are beginning to realize that the three provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island would be to-day a far greater force in federal politics and in the development of Canadian nationality, were they united and fighting shoulder to shoulder for what they are justly entitled to as partners in the confederation.

Western Canada's growth is stupendous compared with that of Eastern Canada. If things go on as they are going now, think what position the Maritime Provinces will occupy in ten, fifteen or twenty years' time. Where will our influence in the council of the nation be? Consolidation now would ensure a large influence, increased power and might to the Maritime Provinces. Looking at this from the standpoint of the man from these Provinces, this would counterbalance to some extent the preponderating and increasing influence of the Western Provinces.

Then there is the practical result of such a change; the strengthening of the bond of feeling and interest between the Maritime Provinces and the rest of Canada. A great and powerful community, self-reliant, independent, progressive, established in this part of Canada would be a means of strengthening and perpetuating bonds of national interest. There would be a fuller national life, a widening of national thought, a reciprocity of rights and obligations, a feeling of increased national strength.

Then again consider the great economy of administration effected by this union; by the abolition of the three existing governments and the substitution of one in their places.

Another benefit of inestimable value would be the resulting uniformity of administrative system and laws; one system of education; one judicial system; uniform legislation respecting railways, mines, timber, taxation, crown lands, immigration, agriculture and so on.

There would be an increased strength. The strength of one new province would be greater than the total sum of all three standing each by itself. Consider how far our provincial revenues and Dominion subsidies would go.

With Union would come the obliteration of sectional jealousies, the elimination of petty discord, and the feeling of greater strength, and with the necessary for co-operation would come increased prosperity, and the promotion of the best interests of the people of these Provinces. Union would tend to foster such a feeling of self reliance as would effectually outweigh any disadvantages.

There are other subjects to be at-

tained, and other arguments in favor of Union, such, for instance, as the broadening of our political field, the old time statement instead of "parochial politicians." The political atmosphere would be healthier.

Obstacles, of course, will be suggested; there is always opposition to every move in the right direction; serious arguments will be advanced; attempts will be made to hoodwink the people, facts figures and statements of their advocates will be distorted to make arguments the other way and to bewilder and perplex the constituency.

'Outdoor Canada' name changed to 'The Athletic World.' The August number of 'The Athletic World,' a new name for 'Outdoor Canada' magazine, has just been received at this office. Since this publication was taken over by W. J. Taylor, Limited, Woodstock, Ont., each issue has shown a marked improvement over its predecessor. Its change of policy to that of a national athletic periodical is this month carried out both in name and nature. Besides the change of title the size has been increased and the contents augmented. Judging by the August number, all as it is of good up-to-date reading pertaining to things athletic, a conspicuous place is assured 'The Athletic World' among the leading Canadian national publications.

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