

SCHOOL SAVINGS' BANKS.

This old-world institution has been introduced into the public schools of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The Town Council has authorized a neat little "pass book" for each depositor, containing the "Rules of the Dartmouth School Bank," and the history of and reasons for the trial of the system. Principal Congdon, who, we presume, is more than any other man responsible for the experiment, says: "So far it has worked admirably. We have about 450 depositors. Took in \$50.22 first week; and last Monday (12th Dec.,) although our schools were very thin on account of the wet weather, we took in \$43.78. I think the whole scheme good. Our teachers do the work, which is not heavy, after hours, and are very much interested in it. We find it has produced good results so far." Our readers, will, no doubt, be interested in the result of this trial; and we think we can do nothing better than publish the admirable statement of the Dartmouth school committee, and the rules of the bank in our next number. We shall then be ready to learn the measure of success attending the enterprising experiment, and to estimate its value for other sections.

INTER-PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

The educational associations of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island have all declared for an Inter-provincial conference of educationists, to be held in St. John, in the third week of July next. In New Brunswick no Provincial educational institute will be held this year. We have not heard what action has been taken, if any, in regard to a meeting of the associations of Nova Scotia and P. E. Island for the present year, but it is probable that the general convention will take the place of a provincial association.

A convention of the teachers of these Provinces will be looked forward to with the greatest interest. If nothing more be accomplished than to make those engaged in educational work better acquainted with each other—the REVIEW has already broken the ice—the results will be important. But there are questions that are common to the educationists of these Provinces—problems pertaining to the future of our schools—that should be discussed by the best minds engaged in the work.

The committee engaged in making the final arrangements will, it is hoped, leave nothing undone to make the meeting successful. At a meeting of the Nova Scotian Association executive committee, on the 4th inst., Prof. F. H. Eaton of the Normal School was appointed, on behalf of that body, to make full and

final arrangements. Principal Mullin, G. U. Hay, and Inspector Oakes were appointed by the executive committee of the New Brunswick Institute, while Supt. Montgomery and Principal Anderson are the committee of the P. E. Island Association. A meeting of the joint committee will take place at an early day.

SPELLING REFORM.

The Dalhousie College *Gazette* is leading in the spelling reform movement by reporting the proceedings of the "Sodales" Society according to the twenty-four rules of the American and English Philological Associations. They have the highest authority of scholarship in the English world in their favor. But then we must remember that the greatest English and American philologists couldn't take a Grade B diploma in Nova Scotia if they followed their own recommendations. Keep on, however, *Gazette*. The water must rise before the dam gives way. The stream of progress never runs free.

The *Academy*, Vol. III., No. 1 (December), takes ground in favor of phonetic reform in spelling and phonographic reform in writing.

The *University Monthly*, of the University of New Brunswick, looks approvingly in the direction of reform.

The author of the "Hand-book of Volapuk," just published in New York, London and Chicago, says in his preface: "Upon the recommendation of the American Philological Association and of the London Philological Society, I have dropped the final *e*, misleading and unhistorical, from such words as 'infinitiv,' 'feminin,' etc.'"

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The district association of teachers in Mr. Lay's inspectorate, Nova Scotia, held their annual meeting at Amherst on the 22nd and 23rd December. About seventy teachers, representing every part of the district, were present.

The work of the first day commenced at 10 A. M., by an address from Inspector Lay. Then followed a paper by Mr. J. W. H. King, on the "Utility of Science;" by Principal Freeman, of the Amherst Academy, on the "Responsibility of the Teacher;" a primary school lesson, by Miss McGregor, of the Amherst Academy; a lesson on division, by Miss Byers, of New Annan; and an instructive paper by Principal Calkin, of the Normal School, advancing several practical suggestions on school work.

In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Lay entertained the Association.