

it, because I have called his attention to matters of less importance.

JOHN McMILLAN.

Signed in presence of

P. LE SUEUR,
Commissioner.

IV. Proceedings of Teachers' Institutes.

1. HURON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the Huron Teachers' Association was held in Clinton, on Friday and Saturday last, the President, Mr. J. R. Miller, Inspector of Public Schools for West Huron, in the chair, and considering the bad state of the roads, and other circumstances, was well attended, more than 100 teachers being present during the whole or part of the proceedings.

The Hon. Adam Crooks, the new Minister of Education, was present at all the sessions of the Association, and made himself very popular with the teachers by his affability and by the kindly interest which he manifested in the proceedings, as well as in the welfare of the profession, in proof of which he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Association.

At the Friday afternoon session, in addition to the usual routine business and a brief address by the new Minister on his introduction to the Association, the subject of "Ratio and Proportion" was taken up by Mr. Gregory, of Exeter, and his method of teaching it exemplified and explained at considerable length, after which Mr. Dewar, Inspector of Public Schools for East Huron, delivered an excellent practical address on some points suggested by his inspectorial visits.

In the evening Hon. Mr. Crooks delivered a public address to a very large and attentive audience, in the Town Hall, the Mayor in the chair. The hon. Minister, after explaining that he had a double purpose in attending this and similar meetings—viz., to show his sympathy with the teachers in their arduous and important labours, and to become acquainted with the practical working of the present law and regulations in order to be better able to judge what further changes might be necessary—devoted his address chiefly to an explanation of the distinguishing features of our School Law as compared with that of the United States and Britain, and of the duties that, under it, devolve respectively on the central and local authorities.

After the address Mr. S. Hicks read an excellent paper on "The Books which a Teacher should Read," taking strong ground in favour of a liberal culture of the mind by a judicious course of reading, if teachers wished to rise in their profession.

On Saturday forenoon, Mr. D. Currie, of Osborne, took up the subject of "Natural Philosophy, with special reference to the Lever" and explained it in a very clear and practical manner as fully as time permitted. Indeed, one teacher remarked that if the subject were as well taught in all schools, teachers would be less afraid of the natural philosophy paper at their examinations.

Rev. Mr. McCuaig, of Clinton, then read an admirable paper on "How to Teach Morals in our Schools," enforcing and illustrating, among other things, the necessity of teachers paying good attention to the old maxim, "Example is more powerful than precept," in teaching both morals and manners.

The only remaining subject, viz., "Grammatical Analysis," by J. Turnbull, B.A., having been by consent allowed to stand over, the Association then proceeded to the discussion of the resolutions submitted by a Committee which had been appointed the previous afternoon to consider several matters of importance. After some discussion the following resolutions were adopted unanimously, or by large majorities:

1st. That in the opinion of this Association, county and city boards of examiners should not be allowed to renew third-class certificates, except in the case of assistant teachers of the 1st and 2nd forms, and then only on the recommendation of an Inspector and Board of Trustees, such certificates to be legal only for the school in which the teacher is engaged; also, that an elementary knowledge of book-keeping, human physiology, natural philosophy, algebra and geometry be required in future for third-class certificates, and that the history be confined to English and Canadian only.

2nd. That there be three public examinations in each year, viz., at the end of the first, second and fourth terms.

3rd. That natural history, agricultural chemistry, domestic economy, civil government, botany and Christian morals, as taught from a text book, be made optional subjects.

4th. That the Easter holidays be dispensed with, excepting Good Friday and Easter Monday.

5th. That one day in each half-year be allowed to teachers for attending Teachers' Institutes.

The Association adjourned, to meet again in September.

The teachers of the Inspectorial district of West Huron took the opportunity on Saturday morning, before the meeting of the Association, to present their Inspector, Mr. J. R. Miller, with a gold watch worth \$120, accompanied by an address expressive of their appreciation of the manner in which he discharged the duties of his office, and their gratitude for his efforts to promote their interests. — *Huron Expositor*.

2. EXETER TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

A very successful meeting of the Exeter Teachers' Institute was held in the School-house, on Saturday, the 10th ult., there being about thirty teachers present, and the exercises proving of unusual interest. The Deputy Minister of Education, J. G. Hodgins, LL.D., was present during the greater part of the day, and in the afternoon read a very carefully prepared and eloquent "Plea for retaining the Higher Subjects of the Public School Programme." Unfortunately we did not take any notes of the doctor's lecture, and are therefore unable to give even a summary of the arguments advanced by him and the facts on which they were based. Suffice it to say, that while fully admitting the very great importance of the ordinary branches of the public school course, he contended very strongly that it would be a great and almost fatal mistake to rest contented with these; that the higher subjects as prescribed in the programme *could* be taught in our public schools, and that it was absolutely necessary for the advancement of the country in agriculture, the mechanical arts, and manufactures, that they *should* be so taught. He dwelt strongly on the fact that the World's Exhibition at Paris, in 1867, had clearly disclosed the fact that England's boasted superiority in the mechanical arts and manufactures was more in name than in fact; that she had been beaten in nearly every department by her continental rivals, and that this result was mainly owing to the want of technical education; that since that time very much had been done in Britain and the United States to remedy the defect, and that Canada was immeasurably behind in that respect. He also referred to his own inquiries into the matter of technical education, when acting as a Government Commissioner, and mentioned that, in answer to inquiries which he had made in Galt, Dundas, and other manufacturing centres, he had been informed that the great majority of the skilled workmen were old countrymen; few, if any, had been trained in our Canadian schools. While not agreeing with the doctor in all his arguments and conclusions, it is but justice to say that he made out a strong case, and that in view of the very great importance of the subject and the agitation that is going on, to have several of the subjects referred to struck off the programme, or at least made optional, we should like to see his paper printed and widely circulated in order that both sides of the question may receive due consideration. The rest of the day was mainly taken up with the subjects of "Mathematical Geography and the use of the Globe," and "Difficulties in Analysis and Parsing," by Mr. George Baird, senr., and H. I. Strang, B.A., of Goderich High School respectively. — *Com. to Huron Signal*.

3. MADOC TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The above Institute met at Madoc. The President in the chair. After a few general remarks by the President, Mr. Sine solved a number of difficult but practical problems from the examination questions in the advanced arithmetic. Mr. Sine's solutions were principally analytical, and showed a careful preparation on his part. The Inspector then took up the analysis of a passage from the fourth reader, "Slavery," and completed the analysis of the above-named passage, which was marked throughout with his usual ability. After the solution of a few more difficult problems by Mr. Sine in arithmetic, Mr. Mackintosh took up the subjects of Interest and Discount, which he explained in detail. The Institute adjourned to meet again on June the 17th, at half-past nine A.M., when the following subjects will be discussed, viz.:—

1. Examination problem, paper fourth, advanced arithmetic.—Mr. Fuller.

2. Discount and Stocks, without rules.—Inspector Mackintosh.

3. Analysis and parsing (fourth reader, page 136, first two paragraphs—"The American Eagle.")—G. W. Sine.

4. Some difficulties in grammar.—Inspector Mackintosh.

Professor Macoun, of Belleville, will deliver a lecture on the North West.

4. SOUTH HASTINGS TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

This Institute met, on 30th instant, Mr. Inspector Johnston in the chair.