

rural school problem is one that very many of the teachers were very anxious to hear discussed. It should be the aim of the executive at the next meeting to leave more time for discussion and to deal more largely with ungraded school problems.

The disparity in the amount of fee paid by men and women, which has been discussed at previous meetings, was finally voted upon and fixed, for the present at least, at one dollar for the former, and half that amount for the latter. There seem to be reasons both for and against this step. That male teachers receive more salary than female is only partially true. The government, it is true, makes a distinction, and the teachers of both high and superior schools undoubtedly are better paid; but in the country districts, in which a majority teach, there is very little difference in the salaries paid males and females. The present somewhat large surplus in the funds made reduction desirable, and all seemed willing that the ladies should have the advantage. Unless the attendance continues large, the present fees will not meet expenses, and it may be that another adjustment may be necessary in the future.

The superintendent gave out a somewhat important statement regarding vertical writing which has been adopted in so many of our schools. He stated that while he favored the vertical system, the law did not at present permit the use of vertical copy-books for pupils' use. He stated, further, that the use of copy-books was not obligatory, nor was the teacher prevented from teaching any system, vertical or otherwise.

Summer School of Science.

The Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces met at Moncton from July 7th to 22d. This enterprising city gave a most hospitable reception to the school, and during the fortnight its citizens vied with each other in their efforts to make the visitors feel at home. The number of students was not large, but this lack was made up in the earnestness with which they took up the work and pursued it. It is quite safe to say that no session of the Summer School has been more successful in this respect.

Moncton has a reputation for hot weather, but all were agreeably surprised to find their expectations disappointed. Cool breezes tempered the heat of the sun nearly every day, and the evening air was always refreshing and invigorating. The famous "bore" of the Petitcodiac river, which is a standard attraction for tourists visiting Moncton, was impressive only to the few who succeeded in catching a glimpse of it on the first night the school assembled, when the full moon

lent its assistance to make the "bore" a thing of beauty as well as grandeur.

One of the most enjoyable excursions in the history of the Summer School was that to the Rocks at Hopewell Cape and the Plaster Quarries near Hillsborough, both visited in one day. It would be difficult to imagine a day in which instruction and pleasure were combined more charmingly. The drive down the banks of the Petitcodiac River, amid varied and beautiful scenery, past well cultivated farms and trim cottages, with well-kept lawns in front, which bespoke both taste and thrift, was most enjoyable, and gave the visitors a favorable opinion of the scenery of Eastern New Brunswick. The Rocks at Hopewell Cape, formed into many curious shapes—column, pinnacle and cave—by the ravages of time and the ever restless sea, were an impressive spectacle, and not less so were the Plaster Quarries near Hillsborough, whose extent and richness surprised the visitors. The kindness and hospitality shown to the school by the manager, C. J. Osman, Esq., and the valuable lessons given by Dr. Bailey on the geological features, will always remain as a pleasant recollection of the day. The limestone formation of the district surrounding the quarries was especially rich in ferns, one of which—*Aspidium Braunii*—is comparatively rare in Southern New Brunswick.

The evening geological lectures given by Dr. Bailey were greatly enjoyed by the audiences which assembled to hear them, as was that given by Dr. Morrison on Journeys in Italy. The 'Round Table Talks, which occupied many evenings very profitably, gave plenty of opportunity for the discussion of subjects in which the school was interested. The first one, on Industrial Education, led by Dr. A. H. MacKay, was valuable because of its practical character, and the evening on Canadian Literature, in which Miss Reade, Miss Robinson and others took part, was also greatly enjoyed.

The "Evening with the Microscopes" was a novelty, and the pleasure that it gave was so great that future sessions of the school should witness, if practicable, its repetition. Very few places, however, can be expected to have within their limits such an accomplished microscopist as Mr. D. Bryce Scott, the electrician of the I. C. R. The evenings spent at his rooms, where he delighted so many and opened out new worlds to many astonished eyes by means of his magnificent binoculars, will never be forgotten.

Among the other institutions of Moncton visited were the Aberdeen School, perhaps the finest and best equipped school building of the Maritime Provinces; the cotton factory, where the mysteries of cotton production were explained; and the railway machine shops,