

The subject of Teachers' Institutes very largely engages the attention of our American neighbors at the present time. There is scarcely a State or County, from which reports reach us, that has not its Institute meeting once or twice a year. In 1850 the Parliament of Canada made an appropriation for this purpose, but beyond a few lectures given under the direction of the Council of Public Instruction, by Professor Hind, nothing has been done since in this way to excite interest in education. That they are capable, when rightly conducted, of doing a great deal of good, there can be no doubt. Indeed, even with two additional Normal Schools, there would be ample room for the operations of these institutions. Many teachers who were professionally trained might derive much benefit from such advanced ideas in regard to practical education as would find publicity in them. Many others might imbibe an enthusiasm from association with their fellow-teachers at such gatherings, which would inspire to greater exertions in the discharge of their duties. And thus by the mingling of the anxious student and the experienced teacher, each would be encouraged and inspired to labor on more zealously in the great work of national education.

The manner in which these Institutes are conducted in several States is thus explained in a recent number of the *Michigan Teacher* :

"Wisconsin compels the County Superintendents to 'organize and conduct at least one Institute for the instruction of teachers in each year, and authorizes the Board of Regents of Normal Schools to use any sum within \$5,000 per annum for Institute expenses. In the expenditure of this allowance, they must give preference to the sections of the State receiving least direct benefit from the Normal Schools. School Boards are authorized to allow teachers their salaries for time spent in actual attendance upon Institutes. In Maine, whenever twenty-five teachers of any county make a written request to that effect, the

State Superintendent may hold an annual Institute in that county, of at least ten days' duration, and may expend \$4,000 per year upon such Institutes. *Pennsylvania* appropriates \$60 to \$200 (according to attendance) for every five days' Institute. Each County Superintendent must hold one yearly. The teachers may be allowed their time; and 'any teacher who absents himself from the Institute of his county without a good reason, may have his want of professional zeal and spirit indicated by a lower mark on his certificate, in the practice of teaching, than he would otherwise have received.' Two Saturdays in every School month may be used for Institutes in any district, and reported as a part of the School month. *Iowa* gives subsidy, not exceeding \$50, for each Institute of not less than twenty members and six working days. Any School in the county must be closed while the Institute is in session, and the teachers' pay goes on during the time. They, as well as all candidates for certificates, are required to attend or present satisfactory reasons for non-attendance before receiving license to teach. Similar provisions subsist in *Kansas*. *Indiana* allows \$50 for an Institute having an average attendance of forty, and \$35 for one with an average of twenty-five. The Public Schools must be closed during the session, but the teachers are not compelled to attend, nor is their time allowed even though they attend. A good foundation for an Institute fund is provided in *Ohio*, where teachers pay a fee of fifty cents for examination, which is set apart for their benefit, in meeting the expenses of County Institutes. The plan contemplates a permanent organization with at least forty members. In most of these States, and in *New York*, the County School officers are required to hold Institutes once a year. In the State last named, the Commissioner must 'induce, if possible, all the teachers in his district to be present and take part in the exercises.' A teacher who closes his School to attend an Institute, does not thereby forfeit his contract, and has his time allowed. The necessary expenses are paid by the State. In *Vermont*, only two days' time is allowed teachers for attendance upon Institutes, without diminution of wages. *Louisiana* has a curious provision that Institutes shall be held 'where the teachers will receive the encouragement of hospitality.' *Illinois* makes