

benefactors of the college, while his public career reflects the highest honor upon his *alma mater*. John V. Ellis, Esq., M. P., Dr. Matthew and Senator Wark have been for a long time largely in the public eye, and each, though laboring in a different sphere, has had a prominent and honorable career, and the university, in conferring honor upon them, reflects credit upon herself.

The appeal for increased financial aid by the senate should meet with a hearty and generous response, as in the efficient support of the university are nearly concerned the condition and progress of secondary education in New Brunswick.

The proposal to establish a chair of pedagogy and the granting of the Asa Dow scholarship are of peculiar significance to teachers, and must result in greater interest in the university on the part of all engaged in the work of teaching. It is wise and progressive policy on the part of the college authorities to come into closer contact with the teachers and public schools, as they are inter-dependent. Much has been done in this direction of late, and something yet remains to be done. Identity of interest and kindly co-operation will avail more effectually toward this result than diverse aims and ill-considered criticism.

Examinations.

In a few weeks the public schools will have closed, and in the meantime much ingenuity will be exercised by examiners in framing questions, and by pupils in estimating their probable scope and their ability to answer them successfully. If we could get the ear of those who prepare questions, or of those who are directing these examinations it would be to say: Do not make the time for examination too long. Pupils should not work at examination papers more than four or five hours a day. It is a cruelty to have examinations extend into the evening after students have been at work on papers both morning and afternoon. And let the examiner make plain what he expects the students to do. Sometimes they become confused and lose valuable time—and perhaps their wits—in trying to unravel what should be made perfectly clear, and without a particle of vagueness.

The REVIEW has doubted the utility of examinations. They are a source of worry, exhaustion, and are a drain on the nervous energy of teachers, students and examiners. They may show some things that the pupil does not know, but they cannot show what the pupil does know. They force a large majority of pupils to attempt more work than they can fully understand, so that they put a premium on "cramming." If they cannot be eliminated from our public school system let the principles of common sense and simplicity be applied to them.

Let them be so directed that they will strike a blow at rote-teaching and instead be measurers of morality, thinking power and intellectual growth. This may be accomplished in part, if the teacher and examiner will reflect that students have other faculties to be trained than memory.

We say amen to the hope expressed by the *Educational Record* in its last issue, that examinations should be prepared for and conducted in such a manner as to be a potent factor in promoting morality.

Union Teachers' Convention.

In this issue is published the programme of the St. John, Charlotte and Washington County Teachers' Institute. In as far as known, this is the first County Institute to embrace teachers from Canada and the United States; but no doubt it will be found that the same difficulties are met with on both sides of the line. It is rare also to enjoy the privilege at these meetings of sitting at the feet of three state superintendents, all men of ripened experience and successful administrators. Dr. Bridges is well known in his native province, as is also G. W. Ganong, Esq., M. P., an old teacher, and one who has the deepest sympathy for the important work of teaching. Miss Whitlock, though young in the work of teaching, will no doubt acquit herself creditably in the important part assigned her.

The central object of the meeting is the excursion to the historic island of St. Croix. Messrs. Hannay, Vroom and Raymond, who have already promised to be present and give addresses, are all most familiar with the locality and its history, and their addresses may be expected to be most interesting and instructive.

The citizens of the border towns are already very much interested in the proposed meeting, and if the weather be fine, a most enjoyable visit it must prove to all who attend. It is expected that arrangements may be made by which the cost from St. John to St. Stephen and return will not exceed one dollar. This will depend somewhat upon the number attending. A competent reception committee has been appointed, of which Mr. P. G. McFarlane is secretary. It is probable that the Charlotte and Washington County teachers will have little difficulty in securing hotel accommodation; with the St. John County teachers it will perhaps be otherwise. These will do well to follow the directions in the programme. It is expected that arrangements will be made by which the St. John teachers may be able to return either Friday afternoon or Saturday. This will enable those who have never before been to the border towns to look around. The prospects at present are that the meeting will be one of the largest ever held in the Maritime Provinces.