

N. B. Educational Institute.

The twelfth annual session of the New Brunswick Educational Institute met at Moncton on Thursday, June 26th, at 2 p. m. Chief Superintendent Crockett occupied the chair. At the first session 177 teachers were enrolled as members. The following shows the number of representatives from the different counties: Westmorland, 76; St. John, 35; York, 14; Albert, 14; Northumberland, 12; Kings, 11; Charlotte, 6; Kent, 4; Carleton, 3; Gloucester, 1; Victoria, 1. Further enrolments of members, with trustees and others interested in educational work, swelled the number to over 200. The first afternoon was taken up with routine work. The secretary-treasurer's report showed a balance of funds on hand from the past year of \$28.92. A communication was read from the Chief Superintendent stating that the Board of Education declined to make any change in Regulation 23 B, making membership in a county institute a requirement of membership in the Provincial Institute. The committee on change of school terms reported that they had not been summoned to meet the Board of Education. The Chief Superintendent stated that owing to the difficulty of securing meetings of the Board during the year, no opportunity of calling the committee to meet the Board of Education had occurred. The committee was asked to continue its labors. A clause in the executive committee's report, that the election of officers take place at the first session was amended so that they may take place at the second regular session. A resolution, introduced by Superintendent Hayes, conveying the hearty sympathy of the Institute to Inspector Wetmore on account of his serious illness, was unanimously adopted.

The public meeting at the Opera House in the evening was largely attended and enthusiastic. Chief Superintendent Crockett presided. Mayor Sumner, on behalf of the city, extended a welcome to the visiting teachers; and to this the chairman made a suitable reply. Addresses on the various phases of educational work were delivered by President Harrison of the University of New Brunswick, President Inch of Mt. Allison, Dr. Bailey, Chairman Robinson of the Moncton School Trustees, Mrs. MacFarland of the W. C. T. U., and Hon. D. L. Hanington. The Moncton Cornet Band, and a select choir under the leadership of Mr. Wetmore, furnished an excellent musical entertainment.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The second session of the Institute met at 9 o'clock, a. m., on Friday. On account of the unfavorable weather it was decided to abandon the excursion to Shediac. G. U. Hay, the New Brunswick editor of the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, advanced the claims of the organ upon the attention of teachers and trustees, and was followed by Principal Mullin of the normal school in complimentary references to its utility. While it lacked many important things in order that it could be made a paper for all classes of teachers, it is incumbent upon teachers to send literary contributions, criticisms, and in short all that would tend to make it a useful means for the dissemination of educational literature.

The report of the committee on changes in the constitution recommended that the constitution be so altered as to permit Teachers' Institutes, through a special committee, to offer suggestions to the Board of Education, respecting adaptability of text books and qualification and training of teachers, and that the Board of Education be asked to reconsider the decision that only members of county institutes be eligible for mem-

bership in the Provincial Institute. This was adopted, and the Chief Superintendent was asked to submit these recommendations to the Board of Education at its first meeting.

J. G. A. Belyea, Principal of the Shediac Grammar School, read a paper on the "Study of English in Advanced and High Schools."

He referred to the neglect of this study in the past, and held that such neglect arose from the mistaken idea that if the pupils knew how to speak English no further study was necessary or educative. It was also a mistake to think that English could best be studied by studying some other language. English required a scientific study and was capable of being thus dealt with, and nothing short of that would do.

The neglect of the study of English is seen in the lack of appreciation of the best class of literature and the mixing into the language of cant phrases, slang, vulgarity and profanity.

He advocated the study of the sentence first, and that sentence to be taken from the reading lesson. As the English is specially adapted to the processes of logical analysis, this exercise can be taken up first. The study of grammar should be taken up with a strong leaning to mercy, as the grammar is better fitted to a language of inflected forms, such as Latin, rather than the differently constructed English. The study of grammar throws no light on the meaning of words or sentences. Analysis does; and it requires the best thought and power of the pupil, and is thus very educative; and a pupil who is in the habit of using such methods has a decided advantage over one not so trained.

The study of etymology was strongly urged as being both interesting and educative, as well as throwing a strong light on the meaning of words. In the higher stages of the study of English the more formal examination and study of English should be taken up, and a careful analysis of the thought and style, and an examination of the history of the author of that portion of literature under consideration, would furnish a highly beneficial series of exercises.

The benefits of such study were clearly shown and the adoption of a text book for higher classes on the history of literature, with the biographical sketches of the principal authors was thought to be of advantage when used in connection with the study of the work of the author.

An interesting discussion followed, in which the following gentlemen took part: Messrs. Hay, Montgomery, McLean, Parlee, Belyea. The points made were that English composition and the reading of good English authors should be begun in the lower grades and carried on to the higher grades without interruption; and that the principles of grammar and analysis should be introduced gradually and without a text book until the higher grades are reached.

At the conclusion of the proceedings of the morning session the members were photographed from the front of the Methodist church, in the basement of which building the sessions of the Institute were held.

In the afternoon a resolution was adopted, moved by Philip Cox and seconded by John Montgomery, that such legislation should be asked for as would enable the Institute to elect annually one or more representatives to the senate of the University of New Brunswick.

A resolution in favor of the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW moved by Charles J. Morrison and seconded by E. A. Pearson was also adopted as follows:

"That we, the members, convened in annual session of Provincial Institute, recognizing the necessity for such a