

At the Centennial School, St. John, a few days ago a demonstration of the Sloyd manual training system was given by Miss Ella McDuffee of the Buffalo Manual Training School. This lady gave a similar demonstration in the same place several years ago. It is hoped that the school authorities in St. John will appreciate these efforts and this system and give it a trial shortly. There is space in the upper rooms of the school buildings, and plenty of plastic material in the boys and girls eager to be instructed. All that is needed is apparatus and a competent instructor. Perhaps Miss McDuffee could be secured. Her excellent training and an admirable genius for construction prove her fitness.

THE death of Mr. James E. Barnes, senior member of the firm of Barnes & Co., publishers and stationers, took place on Sunday, August 29th, after a brief illness. He was a man of sterling qualities, of quiet and unobtrusive manners, and respected by all classes of citizens. No one who had business or social relations with him could help admiring his excellent judgment, his keen sense of honor, and the instincts of true courtesy and kindness which distinguished his relations with others.

The Education of the Blind.

A few months ago the writer was coming from Halifax on a train where there was a number of blind children from that excellent institution—the School for the Blind. No one would have thought from the happy expression on the faces of most of these children, from their sprightly conversation and joyous play, that they were deprived of one of the greatest blessings of existence. In sad contrast to this is an instance—and many of our readers will recall many such instances from their own observation—given by Mr. C. F. Fraser, the worthy superintendent of the school, of a man he visited in the eastern part of Nova Scotia, thirty-eight years of age, who had been blind for twenty-three years. "Physically, mentally, and, I might say, spiritually, the man had become a complete wreck," the monotony of his existence being broken only by eating and sleeping.

In spite of the fact that every effort has been made to make known the advantages of the school and its free education for the blind, there are to be found in many homes of these provinces just such cases as the above—men, women and children who are leading lives of enforced idleness and helplessness, many of whom, if not too old, could be trained to usefulness and self support, and in cheerful and happy employment and with the means of culture at hand, forget, in great measure, their sad affliction.

It is with a view to learn of cases of blind children that Mr. Fraser has issued a circular asking all to assist in giving information of the great advantages of the school, and asking that cases of total or partial blindness be brought to his notice. None possess better opportunities of getting this information than our teachers, and we hope they will do all in their power to co-operate with Mr. Fraser in his humane and praiseworthy efforts.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

While Labor Day has been recognized as a school holiday in New Brunswick since its proclamation and has been observed as such, it is doubtful if it is really one. All holidays proclaimed by the Lieut.-Governors are school holidays by law, but those proclaimed by authority of Governor Generals are not necessarily school holidays, as the Dominion government has no power to legislate regarding schools. The day has been observed and recognized this year as usual, but teachers may in future look for an announcement in the matter.

How often teachers are heard to say modern methods are all very well and come very glibly from Normal school instructors, but how am I to put them in practice with so many grades? If modern methods are good for anything surely they economize time and labor, else why normal schools and what benefit in attending them?

The time of school meetings is at hand and it may not be out of place here to offer a few suggestions upon them. The same mistakes are made each year and we seem to profit but little by the mistakes of the past. It may be well to remember that seven ratepayers are not necessary to do the business of a school meeting, though many still appear to have that idea. Three ratepayers are all that are necessary to do business, a chairman, secretary, who is by law secretary of the Board, and a ratepayer, who may either move or second resolutions, which may also be done by the secretary. It is of course desirable that the trustees and secretary be present, and above all that the school accounts with the report of the auditor be placed before the meeting. It is very desirable that the auditor also be present.

A trustee can not legally resign at the annual meeting. It is not in order for the school meeting to limit by vote the time school should be kept open during the year, as that is the prerogative of the school trustees. Any amount may be voted, but if the meeting has confidence in the trustees their estimate should be the one passed. It is very common for some economist with little or no knowledge of the financial needs of the district to get up and move an inadequate amount, and this is carried because the trustees have not taken the trouble to prepare an estimate. It is false economy to restrict the trustees to an amount below the requirements of the districts, as it will only result in the deficiency being added to the next year's assessment and will cause much inconvenience during the year.

All meetings must be held by law at ten o'clock in the morning and it will not do to hold the meetings in the evening.