

ALBERT COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The eighteenth session of the Albert County Teachers' Institute met at Dawson Settlement on Thursday and Friday, September 19th and 20th, President A. C. M. Lawson in the chair. Fifty-two teachers enrolled themselves members of the Institute, the largest number in the history of the county. The number is very large when it is remembered that there are only about sixty schools in operation this term.

Miss Eva Welling, of Pleasant Vale, gave a very excellent lesson on "Botany" to Grade III, ungraded course. A. D. Jonah, of Point Wolfe, opened the discussion, outlining how the subject of botany should be taught, and warning teachers of the utter futility of attempting to teach it without the specimens. The lesson and subject of botany was further commented on by W. M. Burns, Prof. Rhodes, Rev. I. B. Colwell, W. W. P. Starratt, Jerome Dawson, Misses Coates, Bray, Daly and Minnie Colpitts.

The afternoon of Thursday was spent very enjoyably in a natural history trip to the old manganese mines under the leadership of Messrs. N. W. Brown and President Lawson.

At the evening session Miss Martha Bray, principal of the Surrey school, read a carefully prepared paper on "Home Lessons;" Mr. Harry Burns, one on "Rewards and Punishments," and Mr. A. C. M. Lawson, one on the "Co-operation of Parents." An interesting and profitable discussion followed the reading of these papers.

At the Friday sessions papers and addresses were given on, "Primary Work," by Miss Jane Moore; on "Botany," by A. D. Jonah; on the "Course of Instruction," and on "Prime and Composite Numbers," by Wm. M. Burns; on "Patriotism," by J. G. Dawson. The subjects, with a discussion on "Compulsory Education," which was strongly approved of, made a very complete and excellent educational bill of fare.

The discussions were freely participated in, not only by members of the Institute, but by Inspector Steeves, G. S. Oulton, Science Master of the Moncton schools, and C. R. Palmer, Secretary of the Moncton School Board. These gentlemen, with Hon. H. R. Emmerson and N. W. Brown, B. A., addressed a large and enthusiastic public meeting on Friday evening.

Election of officers resulted as follows: President, A. C. M. Lawson; Vice-president, Miss Mary Daly; Secretary-treasurer, J. G. Dawson. A. D. Jonah and Minnie W. Coates were appointed additional members of the Executive. The next session of the Institute will be held at Hopewell Hill on the first Thursday and Friday in October, 1896.

VICTORIA COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Victoria County Teachers' Institute met at Andover, September 19th and 20th. The meeting was opened by the President. Twenty-four members were enrolled, more than double the number present last year. Inspector Meagher was unanimously chosen President; Mrs. Kelly was appointed Vice-president; C. H. Elliott, Secretary; Mr. Rogers and Miss Barker additional members of the Committee of Management.

The Inspector made some very appropriate remarks on the duties of teachers in preparing themselves for their work. He recommended to teachers subscription to some educational paper, such as the *EDUCATIONAL REVIEW*, or *Teachers' Institute*. Libraries should be found in all schools. Flags for schools are also recommended.

A paper on "Composition, with Special Attention to Letter Writing," was read by Miss Fletcher. Beginners find difficulty in dividing a letter into suitable paragraphs, and in the use of proper stops. *Æsop's Fables* are useful as subjects for composition in the lower standards. In the discussion Mr. Rogers mentioned that it was the custom of inspectors in England to appoint topics found in the morning newspapers as subjects for composition in the higher standards. The President observed that naturalness should be cultivated. Get the pupil to describe things exactly as they occur. Much time should not be put on the consideration of stops beyond the comma and period, except the stops at the beginning and end of a letter. The correction of exercises is of great importance. The practice of using paper instead of slates is a good one.

At the afternoon session a very instructive paper on "Geography of Current Topics" was read by Mr. Rogers. Text-books should not be too rigidly adhered to by teachers. Rapid transit is the feature of the present time. The writer drew attention to the great public works of recent times, such as the great Russian railway, the Baltic canal, Panama canal, Suez, etc. Montreal owes its present trade to the deepening of the channel of the St. Lawrence as far up as the city. The life of the dominion depends in great measure on her water-ways. A general discussion followed, during which the plan of keeping good newspapers on file in the school was mentioned and approved of. Mr. H. C. Henderson remarked on the familiarity of pupils generally with past history and geography but comparative ignorance of modern occurrences.

Miss Barker gave a very well written paper on "Reading." Bringing out all the thought of a passage at once should not be attempted. Consider each sentence separately. A taste for good reading should be