

New Brunswick Journal of Education.

SAINT JOHN N. B., OCTOBER 14, 1880.

CHAT WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

Will correspondents in sending us their address be kind enough to give the County?

"YOUNG TEACHER" We would be glad to receive such a contribution as your paper. Let the subject be one in which you are interested and in which you feel you can benefit others, and be clear and practical in what you have to say.

"C. L. B." Our correspondent says that on reading the copies of the JOURNAL sent her she enclosed the subscription price immediately. We hope that others who are receiving the JOURNAL the same way will be equally prompt.

"M. C." writes: "Please find enclosed the amount of my subscription to your neatly printed and valuable journal, which must give a fresh impulse to teachers and teaching."

"D." The errors in the text book you speak of are probably typographical ones for the most part. Many of them may be due also to the defacing of the types, incidental to the wear and tear of the press in issuing a large edition. We shall be glad, however, to receive the corrections and print them in the JOURNAL for the benefit of teachers.

"G." writes: "I wish my name enrolled as a subscriber for your paper, and will remit in a week or so. I would like Nos. 1, 2, 6 and 7 in order that my file may be complete." We have received, since we undertook the publication of the JOURNAL, several requests like the above, and have responded promptly to the request, and have had our correspondents in nearly every case equally prompt in meeting their engagements. It is easy, where teachers are not in funds, to forward us on a postal-card an intimation like the above, which shows us that the paper is received, with a desire to have it continued and paid for at an early date.

A young lady teacher writes: "My school consists of twenty-six pupils, divided into six classes. The last item is interesting, though I cannot say pleasing, to me. We can very readily understand that. Can you not reduce your classes—say to four or perhaps three. The writer remembers a school of about the same number where the teacher had but two classes and the pupils' progress was marked, and satisfactory to all concerned. You may not be able to reduce your classes to that extent but, at any rate, reduce, and both you and your school will be benefitted."

ALBERT TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The ninth annual meeting of the Albert County Teachers' Institute was held at Hopewell Cape, Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: W. B. Jonah, A. B., President; Miss Josephine Steeves, vice-President; T. E. Colpitts, A. B., Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Lenora Rogers and R. P. Steeves, A. B., additional members of the Committee of Management.

A discussion on school discipline was opened by Reverdy Steeves, of Hillsboro. Inspector Smith opened the discussion on "What Constitutes Success in Teaching," by a valuable and interesting address. The President, Mr. W. B. Jonah, read an able and well prepared address on "Secondary Education," in which he referred to the absence in the present school system of the connecting link between the common school and the

university. He believed the great defect could be remedied by the Government with but small additional expenditure. If ten efficient high schools were established in central points throughout the Province, each head master to receive a Government grant of \$500, and a like amount from the district in which such schools would be located. The present grammar schools, which are not doing grammar school work, would then take the rank of superior schools, and the teachers receive only superior school pay. This would entail on the part of the Government an expenditure of about \$1,000 more than is now expended on secondary education and the system would approach almost to completion.

Papers on how to secure regularity of attendance, by R. P. Steeves, and how to teach writing, by W. J. Jones, were read and discussed, after which a resolution was passed urging upon the Board of Education the importance of proclaiming an Arber Day for schools in May next.

The proceedings of the Institute were very interesting and it was regarded as the most successful yet held in Albert County. The Weekly Observer, from which the above condensed, has a full account of the proceedings.

NORTHUMBERLAND TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

(Condensed from Newcastle Advocate.)

The tenth annual meeting of the Northumberland County Teachers' Institute was held in Chatham last Thursday and Friday. In Thursday morning's session Mr. Cox made a short address, congratulating the teachers upon the evidence of the improved state of the schools of the County. Miss McLachlan read a paper on "Bad Habits in Reading and how to correct them." Mr. Farley read a paper on Writing.

In the afternoon session Miss Hickey introduced the subject of arithmetic in the elementary schools.

Miss Haviland in giving a lesson on reading in standard 1, to a class of children, took up a sentence and showed how she taught them to recognize the words and afterwards the sounds of various letters. Inspector Mersereau asked some questions about the time at which the names of the letters should be taught. Miss Creighton said she would not teach the names until after the sounds had all been learned. She would build up words as soon as the sounds of the letters were known.

Inspector Mersereau spoke of the great educational value of teaching reading by the "look and say" method and expressed his belief in its soundness.

Mr. Anthony considered the "look and say" method very difficult and one that wasted much of the teacher's time.

At the Friday morning's session the president introduced the Chief Superintendent, who expressed his pleasure at meeting so many teachers, who showed such an interest in education. Teachers should deal with methods at their Institute, for although each teacher will have some methods peculiar to himself, still there are always great principles which must be kept in view. He had profited by these Institutes, and the public too were beginning to take more interest in them, and to evince a greater desire to get acquainted with our system and methods.

Mr. Cox introduced the subject of Physical Geography, explaining how to teach children the effects of water and water vapor, the influence of hills and mountains, the nature of salt lakes, and the causes of deserts. Messrs. Mersereau, Hutchison and Crockett endorsed the views of Mr. Cox, and it was resolved that Mr. Cox should write out the substance of his remarks for the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Carruthers read a good paper on History, explaining his method of teaching it. He would use the text books for his facts, but group the facts in the order he thought best for his pupils.

Chief Superintendent Crockett advocated the study of history and intimated that, as our histories are somewhat defective, the teacher should expand each subject and make the necessary additions.

Mr. Hutchison pointed out the danger of allowing teachers to supplement the facts in the text or

give reasons for events in regard to which parties differ. Miss Murphy, Miss Quinlan, Mr. Cox, Miss Baldwin, Miss Mowatt, Mr. Palmer and Dr. Jack gave their views on the subject, the venerable Doctor congratulating the ladies on the intelligent interest manifested.

In the afternoon Prof. Tremblay rose to lecture on French pronunciation. He asked for the undivided attention of the Institute for half an hour, and declared that, if at the end of that time all of them were not able to pronounce French correctly, he would have no hesitation in pronouncing them blockheads. Mr. Tremblay explained his system, illustrating it on the blackboard and closed with a brilliant peroration.

Adjourned to meet in Newcastle next year.

PERSONAL.

Inspector Mersereau is now visiting the schools of Restigouche, which will occupy his attention for the remaining part of this month. In November and December he will inspect the schools of Gloucester and the parish of Altwick in Northumberland.

Mr. P. G. McFarlane, Principal of the St. Stephen High School, was one of the happiest of a very happy group that assembled in that town recently. To him and his bride our heartiest congratulations are extended.

The London correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, in describing the Imperial Federation League Conference, makes special reference to the speeches of Mr. G. R. Parkin, of New Brunswick, whom he describes as "that eloquent Canadian orator." Of Mr. Parkin's speech on the first day of the Conference, he says: "Mr. Parkin's speech was a master-piece of convincing argument and splendid rhetoric. He demonstrated the magnificent greatness of the British Empire in words of such power and pathos, that his audience were fairly overcome with enthusiasm and admiration for his remarkable gift." This will be appreciated, doubtless, by Canadian friends.—*Imperial Federation*.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

Can any of our readers tell us the name of the author of the prize poem on "Canada," beginning—

"Hail, sons of Britain, scattered thro' the world
In every land! For where have ye not come
And coming conquered, wheresoever day
Follows the darkness and the sun the stars."

Examination questions which test a person's power to think, and lead to habits of observation, are better than those which test the memory, and encourage the memorizing of unorganized facts.—*Ex.*

Adolph Sutro has offered to give a tree to each of the forty or fifty thousand school children in San Francisco if they will plant them on some regularly organized excursions.

While in the public schools of Germany a tuition fee is charged, instruction is free in the Swiss schools as it is with us. In most of the cantons, text-books and stationery are also furnished to the pupils at public expense. The teachers' association of Berne has lately recommended to the authorities, with but one dissenting vote, to furnish free text-books to the pupils in the city schools.

BEAR IN MIND that by placing your business with the Ontario Mutual Life Co. you patronize a sound and prosperous home institution controlled by our own laws, while you get the advantage of the higher rate of interest, the lower rate of mortality and the more economical management prevailing in the Dominion. Remember, too, that the rates of the Ontario, especially those for endowments, are lower and its policy preferable to that of any other company competing with it; and do not forget that in its seventeen years' experience the Ontario has not contested a claim.

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