

THE SUMMER SCIENCE SCHOOL AT PICTOU.

Our space will not permit of even a feint of description. We can simply chronicle a few leading points of outline. The opening meeting was held in the Convocation hall of the Pictou academy, at 8 p.m., Monday, July 23rd, President MacKay in the chair. An address of welcome from the Town Council was read by the Town clerk, Geo. D. Ines, Esq., and presented.

The inaugural address was then delivered by Prof. F. H. Eaton, A. M., of the Normal school, in which he outlined a wide and philosophical system of public education, showing the place which should be given to work which is now being attempted in our voluntary summer schools.

The President next read a letter from Sir Wm. Dawson, expressing his regret at being unable to be present, and suggesting the publication of lists of our local fauna, the practical study of which he began in this region in his student days.

Principal James Sheraton, D.D., of Wycliffe (Theological) College, Toronto, was then introduced. In a very eloquent address he vindicated the study of natural science as a search after truth, eulogizing our knowledge, correcting our conceptions, but never contradicting what is the truth, when it is not science falsely so called.

Classes met in the various lecture rooms of the Academy, beginning at 9 o'clock each day. They were so arranged that no two lectures or demonstrations were going on at the same time, as a general rule. Pictou is probably one of the best locations in the province for a Science School, except as to mineralogical material, in which it cannot compare with the region around Minas Basin. For botanical and zoological work its terrestrial and marine flora and fauna are most extensive and accessible. For geological work, glacial action is strikingly illustrated, the coal mines and formations are present, and within excursion distances are the iron mines and fossiliferous silurian of East River, the red sandstone of P. E. I. and the great doleritic dyke near Mt. Dalhousie.

The arts and manufactures are illustrated in the Glass, Steel, Forge, Electric and Water Works of New Glasgow; Gas Works of Pictou, etc.; and from the summits of Green Hill and of Fitzpatrick Mountain can be seen panoramas of densely settled agricultural country not surpassed in the province. The Science School did not draw upon all these resources, but most of them were utilized to a necessarily very small extent.

We take the following brief diary of work from the *Amherst Gazette*:—

TUESDAY, JULY 24TH.

The different departments of Zoology, Botany, Mineralogy, and Physics were opened by Messrs. MacKay, Lay, Pineo and Eaton, respectively. Their lectures were all introductory to the several subjects.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25TH.

Zoology. Dissection of lobster in class.
Mineralogy. Use of blowpipe, and tests for various minerals.
Astronomy. Description and use of sextant.
Botany. Classification and use of Key.
Physics. Original experiments by students.
Physiology. The cell and digestion.

THURSDAY, JULY 26.

Mineralogy. Blowpipe analysis of various minerals.
Physics. Experiments by students.
Astronomy. Reducing observations of previous days.
 In the afternoon an excursion by boat to the Steel and Glass Works of New Glasgow.

FRIDAY, JULY 27TH.

Mineralogy. Classification of minerals.
Geology. Introduction of subject.
Botany. The cell, and description of compositae.
Zoology. Dissection of clam.
 In the afternoon, a walking excursion for scientific purposes to the "Boar's Back," presumably a glacial moraine, and the stone quarries. After tea the school visited the grounds of the Athletic Association, and witnessed running and walking matches, and a game of lacrosse.

SATURDAY, JULY 28TH.

Mineralogy. Blowpipe and other tests for iron ores, lead and zeolites.
Geology. Talk of geology of country visited yesterday and volcanic action.
Zoology. Dissection of oyster.
Botany. Plant life.—Various plants classified.
Physiology. Digestion.—Various interesting experiments to show action of saliva on starch.

MONDAY, JULY 30TH.

Mineralogy. Examination on previous work.
Geology. Historical geology.
Physiology. Circulation of blood.
Botany. Examinations.
Astronomy. Star Troops.
 In the evening the coal mines at Westville visited. The students were taken down 3,000 feet on an incline, and 1,300 perpendicularly from the surface. The great fan and engines visited.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST.

Chemistry. Questions by students; answers by Dr. Waddel.
Geology. Moraines and formation of coal.
Astronomy. The Morning Star.
Chemistry. Experiments. Theory of gases. A. H. McKay, B. Sc.
Physics. Exhibition of electroscope, electrical machines, etc. by Mr. McMillan, of Pictou academy.