

that nearly all the teachers in the county were present, besides many others interested in education. Inspector Mersereau called the meeting to order, and made a very suitable address, in which he particularly referred to the history of the Teachers' Institute of Restigouche.

Chief Superintendent Crockett delivered a very happy address at the public meeting on the evening of the 25th, in which he referred to a little chapter in his own history. Thirty-four years ago he had come from Scotland to take charge of the school in Campbellton. He was disappointed in the "box," where he was expected to teach, but Campbellton had made ample amends—first, in giving him one of its fairest daughters for a wife, and second, in providing the fine educational equipments which the town now boasts of.

Papers and addresses were given by Mr. Edgett, Misses M. Miller, M. Barnes, Devereaux, Galt, E. McKinnon, C. Thompson, D. Turvey, and were well received by the Institute.

The Charlotte County Teachers' Institute was held at St. Andrews on the 18th and 19th of September. Over sixty teachers were present and the Institute was a very interesting and profitable one. The Chief Superintendent, Inspector Carter and Mr. W. F. Ganong were present, and took an active part in the proceedings. Papers were read by Miss Agnes Boyd, Mr. W. T. Kerr, Mr. J. B. Sutherland, Mr. G. M. Johnson and Miss Annie Gilmour.

NEXT TERM.

At the end of this month a great number of our teachers in Nova Scotia must pick up their gripsacks and walk into another section. We are sorry that there should be so much of this, both for the teacher's sake, and for that of the section. True, we must always expect promotions. While these may be good for the teacher, they do no good to the section. But there should not be so many occasions for promotions. Were the salaries in one section as good as in another there would be none. But every annual meeting brings in a number of trustees whose policy is that of trying how far they can cut down the school expenses and still keep a school running. If the school has made progress during the preceding years they are successful in turning it back, and fancy they have done a praiseworthy act because they have saved a few dollars to the district. Law can hardly be called to meet this evil directly. The "one year" system of teachers' engagements would tend to improve matters, we would expect; but the most work can be done by a teacher who makes himself a power-

ful factor not only in the school room, but in all the public works and movements in the section. The teacher should be more or less a public man, heard and *felt* by all men.

N. S. EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

This convention, which is to meet in the provincial metropolis during the Christmas holidays, is likely to be one of the most important, if subjects now engaging the attention of our educationists are to be discussed. At last we are within measurable distance of having two incompatible courses of study replaced by one. Two courses of study; the one recommended to be followed as an harmonious scheme of general education; the other not recommended, but made compulsory by an absolute fiat fixing the syllabus of examination for teachers prepared in the schools. Then, how are the various subjects to be balanced in the new course? We suppose when the final compromise is made there will not be a single teacher in the province who will approve of it as a whole. And if it did suit one perfectly the balance of feeling against it would preponderate more than in the former case. Such a thought must make us feel the necessity of meeting with our minds made up to be very considerate to views which are not our own; because we may feel sure that no one with an opinion of his own can exactly coincide with us.

A general course of study must, of course, be behind the leading thought of the age. The progressive must be handcuffed to the non-progressive. The latter may be dragged on faster; but the former must step slower. On the whole, however, the common consensus of humanity seems to favor the phalanx as the most effective fighting formation.

ASPIDIUM FRAGRANS.

One of our exchanges seemed to think the use in our last issue of the botanical names, *Aspidium fragrans*, etc., discovered in the Cobequids near Parrsboro, was funny. This fern has no common name because it is not a common plant. Very few Nova Scotians or New Brunswickers have ever seen it or will ever see it. Secondly, the scientific name is known in every school in the land in which a copy of "How Plants Grow" is used, we mean MacKinlay's last edition, lately published, which contains a description of all the ferns in the northern half of the continent.

Why is it that this arctic and most exquisite of the shield fern tribe, grows in dwarf but fragrant clusters in solitary stateliness, from the ledge of some