

in which they acquitted themselves. Indeed, the reading and recitation showed much diligence on the part of both pupils and masters.

The concluding exercise was in Mental Arithmetic, for which fifteen pupils entered. The quickness and accuracy of the answers, on the whole, certainly surprised the audience. Master C. Rudderham from the Bar was finally awarded the prize. John Armstrong, Roderick Buchanan, Hester Muggah, Malcolm Buchanan, and Matthew Sullivan came next in order of merit.

The prizes, Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, were then handed to the successful candidates amid the applause of the assembled scholars. This proceeding closed the competition which had been most spiritedly conducted throughout. As it will be seen by the foregoing list, the majority of the prizes for spelling and the one for history were taken by pupils of Mr. Creed, whose ability in his profession deserves every recognition. The prizes for mental arithmetic and recitation, and two for spelling were, however, taken by pupils from other places. It is certainly to be hoped that such examinations will be continued from year to year, as they must assist materially in stimulating education and establishing the system firmly throughout the country.—*Cape Breton News*.

Hants Co. competition.—The competition for prizes to-day was close and spirited. A much larger number of competitors would doubtless have been present had the weather permitted. The following sections were represented thus:—

Windsor.....	26 pupils.
Hantsport.....	6 "
McKay.....	5 "
Martock.....	2 "
East Rawdon.....	1 "
Middle Rawdon.....	1 "
Newport and Douglas.	3 "

In mental arithmetic 8 competed, and the prize was taken by Austin Mosher of the Newport and Douglas section.

Twenty-seven competed in reading and recitation, and Maggie Burton of the Hantsport section took the prize.

In British history 13 entered the list, and James Mosher of the Newport and Douglas section came off victor.

Of the 29 who competed in spelling, 13 took prizes as follows Windsor section—Percy Scott, Evvie McCully, Annie Mosher, Agnes Doran, Minnie McLatchy and Isabel Geldert. Martock section—Jeremiah McDonald. McKay section—Annie Bowes, Laura McKay and Helena Harvie. Hantsport section—Sarah Holmes. Newport and Douglas section—Rufus Mosher and James Mosher.

It will be seen from the above that four sections are entitled to Chisholm's Mathematical scale, viz., Windsor, Hantsport, McKay, and Newport and Douglas. The highest general proficiency exhibited by the competitors was in mental arithmetic and British history; the lowest, in reading and recitation. The successful competitor in mental arithmetic gave the first correct answer to 45 questions, many of which involved calculations of a very complicated and ponderous character. Next to him honorable mention should be made of William Black, who was first correctly to answer 21 questions. In British history the winner of the prize correctly answered 54 questions,—next to him Rufus Mosher answered 53, and Otis Redden 46.

My thanks are hereby tendered to Colonel Poyntz, Dr. Read, and George DeWolf, Esq., for the valuable assistance they rendered in helping me form a judgment in cases of doubt.

D. M. WELTON, *Inspector*.

King's Co. competition.—The competition for prizes offered by the Legislature to the pupils of the public schools of this county, came off to-day in accordance with previous notice. The weather was extremely unpropitious, and I feared the ardor of those who had intended presenting themselves would be effectually damped. There was not so many schools represented, and from those that were represented there was not so large an attendance as if the weather had been fine; yet, the number present was larger than, under the circumstances, we dared to hope.

Somerset sent 1 competitor, Town Plot 1, Kentville 6, Lower Canard 5, Randville 10, Upper Church Street 3, Upper Canard 15, Sheffield Mills 1, Canning 4.—In all 46. Of these there were in history 9, reading 25, spelling 34, mental arithmetic 3.

The examination in history was spirited, and the answers given showed a minute and comprehensive knowledge of this interesting and instructive branch of study. After the number had dwindled down to five, the contest was so sharp as to leave the judges for a long time in doubt as to who should win. I venture to say that this class can hardly be excelled.

Reading.—The examination in this branch necessarily occupied considerable time, and so little disparity was there in the reading of half a dozen, that a nice discrimination was required to be exercised by the judges. Their award was in favor of the only recitation presented. There was, of course, much diversity in style, and although in general the execution was creditable, yet too little of the reading reached that high standard which a refined taste, aided by practice, may attain. Upon no branch have I, during my visitation, bestowed so much attention; as too frequently I have observed, on the part of teachers, a carelessness of all else save the ability to call words correctly and with facility. Honorable men-

tion should be made of the reading of a number of small children; and could the judges, in their award, have taken into consideration the circumstances of age, &c., a different conclusion would have been arrived at.

The spelling and definition were excellent, and two hours were occupied in reducing the number of competitors to the number of prizes.

The show in mental arithmetic was small, much smaller than I had hoped,—creditable, however, to those who competed.

The Court House, in which the competition was conducted, was during the whole day crowded with spectators, who evinced the liveliest interest in all the proceedings.

I was fortunate in securing the assistance of Revds. D. O. Ruggles and S. B. Kempton, and George Blanchard, Esq., Judge of Probate, who exercised the strictest care that no cause of complaint should be afforded to any of the competitors.

The following is a list of those who were successful:—

MENTAL ARITHMETIC.

Burgess McKetrick.....Upper Church Street.

HISTORY.

Cornelius Russell.....Town Plot.

RECITATION.

Gideon Barnaby.....Upper Canard.

SPELLING.

Carrie Greenough.....	Upper Canard.
Andrew McDonald.....	"
Mary Beckwith.....	"
Esther A. Ellis.....	"
Charles Hardwick.....	Lower Canard.
Almira Lockwood.....	"
Laura Rand.....	Randville.
Alfred Hays.....	"
Mary Woodworth.....	Canning.
Prudence Woodworth.....	"
Emma Dickey.....	"
Annie Webster.....	Kentville.
Francis Harris.....	"

Thus requiring 7 copies of Chisholm's Mathematical Scale.

WILLIAM EATON, *Inspector*.

Yarmouth Co.—The Inspector, upon request, was allowed to appropriate one of the spelling prizes to the subject of grammar.

English Grammar and Analysis—Abbie Kimbell, Milton Section; *Reading and Recitation*—Minnie Gridley, Lower Town Section; *Mental Arithmetic*—Albert Crosby, Lower Town Section; *English History*—Agnes Robbins, Chebogue Point Section; *Spelling*—Eva Crosby, Lower Town Section; Clara Gridley, Lower Town Section; Jane Killam, Milton Section; Annie Guest, Lower Town Section; Carrie Wyman, Central Town Section; Maggie Lewis, Lower Town Section; Salia Goudley, Lower Town Section; Alfred Hanford, Milton Section.

The sum of forty dollars was subscribed to procure additional prizes.

G. J. FARISH, *Inspector*.

Digby Co. competition.—The examination for the prizes offered by the legislature came off in the Academy on the 13th March. The inspector was assisted by the Rev. A. Martell, P. W. Smith, Esq., M.D., W. H. Taylor, and A. B. Holdsworth, Esqs. Mr. D. W. Elder was requested to act as Secretary to the examiners. The number of competitors, in spelling, was 18; reading and recitation, 10; English history, 5; mental arithmetic, 4. Dr. Smith proposed, for spelling, the names of plants, fruits, &c.; and others of the examiners made some pertinent suggestions. After a searching and impartial examination of nearly five hours, the following were declared successful competitors:—

Spelling.—Frances Jones, Digby; Elizabeth Waters, Digby; Rose Hanley, Digby; Maria Hankenson, Weymouth; Mary McCormick, Digby; Ella Ruddock, Digby; Arthur W. Burns, Digby; George Dunham, Digby.

Reading and Recitation.—Eleanor A. Cornwell, Little River, D. N.

Mental Arithmetic.—Wallace Johnston, Waterford, D. N.

English History.—Budd Dakin, Digby.

In the opinion of the examiners several others acquitted themselves so creditably, that, with the view of rewarding their efforts and industry, ten dollars were contributed on the spot for the purchase of books as prizes, which were awarded to the following:—

Recitation.—Eugenia Eldridge, Sandy Cove, D. N.; Annie S. Morse, Sandy Cove, D. N.; Caroline Mouchouse, Sandy Cove, D. N.; Sarah Saunders, Sandy Cove, D. N.

Spelling.—Sabia Churchill, Digby.

Several of the parents and friends of the competitors were present, and they, together with others, manifested much interest in the examination. Unfortunately the day proved very rainy, and the roads, had before, were rendered in some places almost impassable. Under these circumstances the number of candidates could not be so large as it would otherwise have been. But, while this could not but be regretted, all concurred in expressing satisfaction at the creditable exhibition they had witnessed, and in admitting