

School News

TEACHERS' CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Swan Valley Teachers' Association, which was held at Swan River on October 25th and 26th, was a decided success, over forty teachers registering.

The first morning of the convention was spent by the visiting teachers in visiting the Swan River school in session. At two o'clock the convention was formally opened by the President, Mr. Duncan. Mr. Price then very cleverly treated of the "Teaching of Art in Public Schools." His address was both interesting and instructive. He showed that being able to judge pictures intelligently was at the bottom of all art. A good picture, he said, is one that is truthful. For if truthful it must be beautiful. Of the teaching of drawing three quarters of the battle lies in proper observation. "Open his eyes that he may see" is the prayer of every teacher. In closing, Mr. Price asked the teachers to instil a love of truth into the heart of the child, for in so doing he will be doing a great deal for the future of the country.

Next followed a practical demonstration by Mr. Plummer on "Reading in the Public Schools." This was followed by a lively discussion.

On Thursday evening a "Social" was held in the Presbyterian church, and so an opportunity given the teachers to become better acquainted. Those present were the teachers, the members of the School Board and their wives, and the clergymen and their wives.

The morning session of the second day was opened by a paper on "Hand-work in the Primary Grades," by Miss V. Little, who very gracefully treated of the subject.

After a few minutes for registration, Inspector Peach led the convention in a lively round table conference.

The afternoon session was opened by an address by the Rev. Young, who chose for his subject "The Public School Teachers as an Ethical Influence." The teacher, he said, occupies the most important place in the service of the community and in the welfare of the nation, for his work is not merely for to-day, but will be seen in the coming ages. A truly educated man is one who can fit into social life most efficiently. So it is the teacher's duty to fit the child, born and fitted for primitive society, for complex society.

Mr. Garret's talk on "Grammar" was very helpful, and was followed by a lively discussion.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:—Hon. President, Mr. J. S. Peach, president, Mr. Garret; vice-president, Mr. Duncan; secretary-treasurer, Miss A. L. Ibbetson; executive committee, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Rogers and Miss V. Little.

It was decided to vote \$25.00 of the Teachers' Association fund to the Y.M. C.A. work at the front.

The singing of the National Anthem brought the convention to a close.

OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Perhaps some of the readers of the Western School Journal would like to hear about our Xmas concert which was given on December 20th and 21st. The programme was as follows:—Canadian Recruiting March Song, Grades IV.-

VIII.; Daisy Action song, Primary; scene from Dickens' Xmas Carol (The Xmas Dinner), Grade IV.; carols (a) "Come to the Manger," (b) "The Holly and the Ivy," Grades IV.-VIII.; Mother Goose-Land, Grades II.-III.;