

There was then a session of the Institute divided into four parts. This was one of the most useful sessions of the institute. The other meetings seemed to lack the freedom which was manifested at this. At the fourth session Inspector O'Brien gave a lesson in his usual clear manner on mental arithmetic, a subject in which he has few peers.

The officers are: J. E. Pincock, M. A., President; Miss Bessie Horsman, Vice-President; Mr. S. W. Irons, Secy-Treas; Miss E. Anderson and Miss Ryan, additional members of the Executive.

#### P. E. ISLAND EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.

The Prince Edward Island Educational Convention met at Charlottetown during the exhibition week, September 21-23, the president, Mr. P. S. Bradley, in the chair. The attendance was nearly two hundred, and there were some excellent discussions on current educational topics. The first address was by G. U. Hay, on the subject, Are Our Schools up to date? the speaker dwelling on the importance of teachers studying the environment of the pupil, especially in regard to health, right living and a knowledge of the resources of the country.

Mr. Lelacheur, late principal of the Hillsboro Consolidated School, in his address on nature-study opened several important questions that came in for the serious consideration of the members. He thought that the frequent change of teachers was a great drawback to education; that the island should have better schools and fewer churches. This was the only province in the Dominion, he said, that required two languages (Latin and French) for admission to its high school—the Prince of Wales College.

President Bradley's address to the convention reviewed educational conditions, especially the finding of the Commission appointed by the government to inquire into and report on these conditions.

Mr. Simpson gave an address from the farmer's standpoint. He thought agriculture should not be taught in the public schools.

In the discussion that arose upon these addresses, several speakers referred in pointed terms to educational conditions of the Island—the defects and needs. Principal Robertson of Prince of Wales College, thought that the province need not be ashamed

of the men it has sent out from its schools. He favored the study of Latin and referred to the need of a compromise in the matter of choosing subjects of a course of study suited to modern needs. Much depends on the individuality of the teacher. The crucial defects in our schools are the youth and immaturity of the teachers and the desire for change.

Principal R. H. Campell thought it unwise to attempt to teach agriculture without the foundation of a good elementary training in ordinary school subjects. In such a training nature-study should have a large part. A person to become skilled in agriculture or in any trade or profession, must be able to read the printed page intelligently. He thought it a most pernicious thing to teach that the ordinary branches were of no use to a farmer.

Principal Seaman thought teachers could do much to improve conditions in the interior and exterior of the schoolrooms.

Principal Landrigan thought the teacher should not be the one to ask for an increase of salary. The government should assume the whole responsibility of fixing the salary and collecting the rates to pay the teacher.

Inspector McCormac, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Dewar, M.P.P., and others contributed materially to the discussion.

Dr. Anderson, chief superintendent of education, presided at the public meeting held on Thursday evening, September 22. Addresses were delivered by Inspector McCormac, Hon. Mr. Hazard, leader of the Government, Mr. W. M. Matheson, leader of the Opposition and by Dr. G. U. Hay.

During the proceedings of the closing day, Mr. M. E. Francis, principal of the Cardigan school, read a paper on the Muscular Movement in Penmanship which he favored because it produced legible and rapid writing. Principal Landrigan followed with a lesson on a series of illustrative examples neatly arranged in frames.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, M. Coughlan; secretary-treasurer, Miss Mary Cornfoot; recording secretary, M. E. Francis; executive committee, Inspector McCormac, J. D. Seaman, James Landrigan, Miss Bovyer, R. H. Campbell.