

THE January number of *Acadiensis*, D. Russell Jack, editor, is a finely illustrated number, completing its story of the DeMonts-Champlain tercentenary celebration at Annapolis, St. John, and St. Croix in June last. *Acadiensis* in this and the preceding numbers has done a notable service in handing down a record of this historic event.

THE recent destruction by fire of the premises and stock of the well known publishing house of J. & A. McMillan, St. John, has caused a widespread feeling of regret. Since the establishment of this firm, more than three-quarters of a century ago, it has suffered severe calamities by fire, but its reverses have always been met with that spirit of determination which overcomes every obstacle. And it will be so in the present case.

PROFESSOR JAMES W. ROBERTSON has resigned the commissionership of agriculture under the Dominion government and will henceforth devote himself to carrying out a comprehensive project of rural education in Canada. For this Sir William Macdonald's wealth will be placed freely at his disposal. A large farm, consisting of 700 acres, has been purchased on Montreal Island. Here will be erected in the near future buildings and laboratories fully equipped for training thousands of students in agriculture, stock-raising, nature work, manual training and domestic science. And this is only one element in the scheme which two sagacious and far-seeing men have in mind for the betterment of rural education in Canada.

#### **Opening of the Macdonald School, Kingston, New Brunswick.**

On the 9th of November last the pretty little village of Kingston, Kings County, was the scene of a gathering that marked the dawn of a new era in rural school education in New Brunswick. On that day the Macdonald Consolidated School was formally opened in the presence of a large assembly of people, among whom were members of the provincial government and board of education, and persons from far and near gathered to witness an impressive sight. The interest lay, not so much in the fine new school building that crowned a knoll overlooking a scene of rare natural beauty, nor in the effective equipment for the first time employed at this place for educational purposes, but in the groups of bright, happy and well dressed children who were brought from their homes on that crisp autumn

morning in covered vans, and in admirable order took their places in the comfortable well furnished school rooms, provided by the generosity of one large-hearted benefactor.

And throughout that day as the visitors went from room to room and observed the work of the school they were no less interested in the quality of the instruction given, and the opportunities for children's minds to unfold amid such happy influences. What a contrast to the poorly constructed, ill-furnished school rooms that these children had left a few months before; and how one wished that such opportunities could be given to the children of every rural community throughout Canada; and that every teacher could be encouraged to prepare for and enter upon teaching as a life work with such inducements as this school affords.

Although the school had been in operation but a little over two months, there was evidence of efficient organization on the part of Principal Hamilton and his capable associate teachers, and a united desire on the part of parents and children to make the greatest possible use of their advantages. The seven districts which were consolidated to form the central school are average rural districts such as are to be found in New Brunswick. Under the old system the total number of pupils registered in these seven districts was 125, with an average attendance of 55, or 44 per cent. The registration at the new central school is 162, with an average attendance of 149, or 92 per cent. What an instructive comparison!

The large assembly hall of the building was filled in the afternoon and again in the evening by parents, children, and visitors from a distance to listen to the addresses of Professor Robertson, Premier Tweedie, Chief Superintendent of Education, Dr. Inch, and other prominent educationists. The occasion was an inspiring one and a deep impression was left on the minds of the earnest and deeply interested auditors.

Professor Robertson's address was one that appealed to every one, for it concerned the children. The best appliances of education, the best teachers should be given them. Even if it cost more than under the old system what asset of parents could compare in value to the priceless treasures of their children. And what better inheritance could parents leave their children than a good education, in which body, mind and soul would be rightly developed. An instance during the course of his address showed the keen sympathy he has for the welfare of chil-