

Teachers' Institute.

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Annapolis and Digby Counties Teachers' Institute was held at Digby, May 26 and 27. There were representatives present from other counties adjoining including Inspector MacIntosh and Principal McKittrick of Lunenburg, and Principal Morton of Bridgewater. The excellence of the papers and discussions were quite equal to those of recent years. To the president, Inspector Morse, belongs much of the credit of the success of these annual meetings. The first paper was read by Principal Morton of Digby Academy, on The Three R's. In reading greater variety of readers is necessary; spelling should be taught from the context; in arithmetic accuracy is the test. This excellent paper gave rise to an animated discussion in which Principal Smith, Principal Morton of Bridgewater, and Miss Kinley took part. Miss Hattie M. Clark gave an instructive talk on Drawing. In a miscellaneous school she would make two divisions of this subject; the first, including the lower grades, to deal with outline work only, while the second, composed of the higher grades, should add shading. Principal A. W. L. Smith of Annapolis, read a paper prepared by T. H. Spinney, in which a method of reducing the vulgar fraction to the decimal form differing from that in the text book was introduced and received demonstration upon the board at the hands of the reader. Miss Mary T. Kinley read a suggestive paper on The Country School; its Discouragements and Inspirations, which was discussed by Dr. J. B. Hall, Mr. A. DeW. Foster and Miss Mabelle Fash.

In the absence of Professor Haley, of Wolfville, Dr. Hall addressed the institute on the elements which enter into the training of pupils, and gave some very practical and useful suggestions on the course of study, the pupils' surroundings and the teacher. Miss A. B. Juniper, teacher of domestic science at the Middleton Consolidated School, gave an excellent address on this subject and its bearing in education. To many domestic science means instruction in cooking only, but such a meaning is very restricted. It is a training which is of incalculable benefit in teaching girls to keep good homes and become intelligent mothers.

After an address by Mr. G. A. Boate on the drawing of projections, the institute appointed delegates to the Provincial Educational Association—and named the executive committee for the ensuing year.

At the final session Mr. W. K. Tibert, of Bear River, gave a lesson on elementary science to a class of grades seven and eight, which earned the well-deserved commendation of the institute.

"The REVIEW helps me very much in my work. It is always to be found on our school reading table and the pupils enjoy it with us."

E. G. P.

A Country Newsboy.

People who travel on railway trains frequently notice dogs rush out from farm houses and try their speed in a race with the "iron horse." Such dogs, if properly trained, might be as useful as the case mentioned in the following, which is taken from the paper called *Our Dumb Animals*:

The railroad ran along one side of a beautiful valley in the central part of the great state of New York. I stood at the rear end of the train, looking out of the door, when the engineer gave two short, sharp blasts of the steam whistle. The conductor, who had been reading a newspaper in a seat near me, arose and, touching my shoulder, asked me if I wanted to see a "real country newsboy." I, of course, answered "Yes." So we stepped out on the platform of the car.

The conductor had folded up his paper in a tight roll, which he held in his right hand, while he stood on the lower step of the car, holding on by his left.

I saw him begin to wave the paper just as he swung around a curve in the track, and a neat farmhouse came in view, 'way off across some open fields.

Suddenly the conductor flung the paper off toward the fence by the side of the railroad, and I saw a black, shaggy form leap over the fence from the meadow beyond it and alight just where the newspaper, after bouncing along on the grass, had fallen beside a tall mullein stalk in the angle of the fence.

It was a big black dog. He stood beside the paper, wagging his tail and watching us as the train moved swiftly away from him, when he snatched the paper from the ground in his teeth and, leaping over the fence again, away he went across the fields toward the farmhouse.

When we last saw him he was a mere black speck, moving over the meadows, and the train rushed through a deep cleft in the hillside and the whole scene passed from our view.

"What will he do with the paper?" I asked of the tall young conductor by my side.

"Carry it to the folks at the house," he answered.

"Is that your home?" I inquired.

"Yes," he responded; "my father lives there and I send him an afternoon paper by Carlo every day in the way you have seen."

"Then they always send the dog when it is time for your train to pass?"

"No," said he, "they never send him. 'He knows when it is train time and comes over here to meet it of his own accord, rain or shine, summer or winter.'"