

THREE SCENES IN BROCKVILLE.

Scene I.—An ex-Inspector selling tickets for a lottery to dispose of his own homestead.

Scene II.—Ex-Inspector paying down cheerfully the fine for violation of the statute.

Scene III.—The drawing. The Ex. strikes the luck, wins back his home, pockets the spoils. The curtain falls to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." Immense sensation.

The Legislative Committee of the Ontario Teachers' Association had a conference with the Minister of Education Jan. 11th. The following members of the committee were present:—Messrs. James L. Hughes, chairman; Wm. Carlyle and Wm. McIntosh, inspectors; H. B. Spotton, M.A., L. E. Embree, M.A., and A. McMurchy, M.A., High School masters, and S. McAllister and R. W. Doan, Public School masters. Among the questions discussed were:—1. Improvement in Model Schools. 2. Third-class teachers' certificates and permits. 3. Remuneration of examiners at High School entrance examinations. 4. Propriety of High School masters presiding at High School examinations. 5. Propriety of the same examiner preparing the papers on the same subject for all the departmental examinations during the current year. 6. Public School inspectors' certificates. 7. Success in teaching an element in awarding the grade of certificates. 8. A knowledge of science imperative in case of second-class certificate. 9. Fees for candidates at Public school teachers' examinations. 10. Increased efficiency in training of Normal schools. 11. New programme, 1882. 12. Teachers' associations. 13. One year's notice to be given of changes in the school programme. 14. High School fees. 15. English history text-books. 16. Bible reading in schools. 17. One series of readers. 18. Suggestions regarding entrance examinations. 19. Professional training for High School teachers. 20. Superannuation of teachers. 21. The advisability of abolishing the intermediate examination. 22. The propriety of conducting third-class examinations by County Boards, as formerly, and fees of examiners in case the old plan is adopted. 23. Should candidates be allowed to write for second-class certificates without previously obtaining third-class certificates? 24. Relative value of subjects at second-class examinations. With regard to Bible-reading in schools and 21, 22, and 23 of the questions discussed the Minister expressed his intention of taking immediate action. As to the Bible-reading, it is proposed that passages be selected, one for each day in the year, and that a circular containing these be sent to each teacher in the province.

The Committee appointed by the Board of Education at Gananoque in Dec. last to examine the two authorized series of readers, reported as follows:—To the Board of Education, Gananoque.

Gentlemen,—Your Committee appointed to examine the two sets of readers authorized by the Government, beg to report as follows:—

1. The type of the Canadian series is larger and clearer than that of the Royal. This difference is very noticeable in the Primers. In these latter there is also a difference in the illustration: those in the Canadian series being more suitable for elementary instruction than those in the other series.

2. The Canadian series contains in the Primers a number of words and sentences in script which have already occurred in the preceding lessons for the pupils to imitate with slate and pencil. This appears to your Committee to be more practically useful than the imitation of the printed characters which are given for a similar purpose in the Royal series.

3. From the second to the fifth of the Canadian series the lessons are printed with spaces to indicate the rhetorical pauses. This is a feature not found in the Royal series.

4. Both series contain biographical sketches of authors, which are short but sufficiently long for the purpose intended.

5. The notes attached to the lessons in the Canadian series are fuller and more appropriate to school work than those in the Royal series. Further, the questions in the Canadian series can be answered from the lessons themselves, which is not always the case with the other series.

6. As a collection of literary selections the Royal series is decidedly superior, but with the accompanying drawback that the lessons are too long and the books too large for the time which pupils are expected to spend over them. Also the selections seem too difficult, in many cases, for the positions that they occupy in the series.

7. Both series contain passages which are not the finest examples of elegant English, but these are few, and in both may be found a sufficient number of masterpieces to cultivate the taste as far as the cultivation of a literary taste is possible in Public Schools.

8. The following points are noticeable in the Canadian series which are not found in the Royal: (a) The most difficult words in each lesson are defined in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th books. (b) Directions for composition based on the subject matter of the lessons. (c) Lists of prefixes and affixes, Latin roots, and a view of the foreign elements in English. (d) A list of words often incorrectly pronounced showing the correct

pronunciation and the most common error. (e) Rules for reading in general in the Sixth Book and hints attached to the majority of the lessons throughout the series, for the purpose of aiding pupils in reading the same. (f) Many of the lessons are summarized.

9. As far as can be learned, the Canadian series is cheaper than the Royal, but not so much as might be expected from the comparatively small size of the books.

After carefully considering these points obtained by a thorough examination of the books, your Committee beg to state that it is their decided opinion that the Canadian Series of Readers is better adapted to the wants of the Gananoque Schools than the Royal.

All which is respectfully submitted,

W. K. T. SMELLIE, B.A., H.M., H.S.

WM. SCOTT, B.A., A.M., H.S.

S. G. COOK, P.P.S.

On motion the report was received and placed on file without further action at present.—*Gananoque Reporter*, Dec. 8, 1883.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Acadian Science Club is a recently formed organization aiming to awaken and foster an interest in scientific knowledge and to keep its members abreast of the scientific progress of the times. It success so far has been quite marked. It publishes an excellent monthly, the *Acadian Scientist*, edited by Mr. A. J. Pines, the enthusiastic and accomplished secretary of the Club. The following is a complete list of the officers:

OFFICERS:

President—A. E. Coldwell, A.M., Instructor in Natural Science, Acadia College, Wolfville, N.S.

Directors:

Physiology—C. W. Roscoe, A.M., Inspector of Schools, Wolfville, N.S.

Geology—Alexander McKay, Esq., Supervisor of Halifax City Schools, Dartmouth, N.S.

Botany—A. H. McKay, A.B., B.Sc., Principal Pictou Academy, Pictou, N.S.

Astronomy—Prof. A. E. Coldwell, A.M., Wolfville, N.S.

Chemistry—J. F. Godfrey, Esq., Wolfville, N.S.

Zoology—A. J. Pines, A.B., Principal Wolfville High School, Wolfville, N.S.

Entomology—J. E. White, M.B., Toronto, Ont.

Mineralogy—S. K. Hitchings, B.Sc., State Assayer and Principal High School, Biddeford, Maine.

Natural Philosophy—Prof. F. H. Eaton, A.M., Provincial Normal School, Truro.

A. J. Denton, A.B., Halifax, N.S.; W. P. Shaffner, A.B., Kentville, N.S.; W. W. Saunders, Esq., Bridgetown, N. S.; F. H. Schofield, A.B., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dr. Rand has entered upon his duties as Professor of History and Education in Acadia College.

Supervisor McKay (Halifax City) has recovered from a serious illness by which he was prostrated shortly after the beginning of the Christmas vacation.

Pictou Academy has an attendance of 170 students. Its staff now numbers four Provincial Grade A teachers, two of whom are also University Graduates. The Pictou "boys" met with their usual success at the various Matriculation examinations last autumn.

The Halifax City Council has adopted a resolution requesting the Council of Public Instruction to rescind the minute authorizing the Halifax Board of School Commissioners to establish separate schools for colored children, and (virtually) empowering them to exclude the latter from the ordinary schools. The resolution also asks the Commissioners to suspend action under the minute and to give colored children the same privileges as are accorded those of white citizens. It is not probable that the Council of Public Instruction will take action in the matter until the Commissioners, who are now considering the question, shall have announced their decision. The minute of council, whose abrogation is sought, is purely permissive, and was originally adopted in response to a petition from the colored citizens themselves.

Mr. G. W. Dill has resigned the Principalship of the County Academy, Kentville.

The appointment of Mr. Crockett to the Chief Superintendency of Education in New Brunswick is regarded with general approval by the teachers of Nova Scotia, to many of whom Mr. Crockett is known as an Educationist of exceptionally high attainments.