

TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

The Teachers' Institute for St. John City and County held its opening session in the St. John High School on Thursday morning, December 18. The President, Inspector W. M. McLean, in his opening address touched on several important subjects that are much discussed at the present time, among them, technical training, the school as a social centre, the introduction of kindergartens, manual training, domestic science and nature study in the rural schools. He gave some practical suggestions for better teaching of history and civics, and especially pleaded for more interest in Canadian history, for a clear presentation of our system of government, beginning with the government of the district and going on to the government of the empire. Speaking of different new movements in education, particularly of the use of school buildings as social centres, he deprecated the placing of heavier burdens on the teachers. Practical teachers of experience, he said, should be consulted in regard to educational reforms.

Mr. M. D. Brown, Principal of Dufferin School, gave a practical and interesting talk on Writing. This address was full of valuable instruction and drew forth a good discussion, in which Principal Nelson, Mrs. Lawrence, Miss Doherty, and others took part.

On Thursday afternoon Dr. Carter, Chief Superintendent of Education, speaking of educational matters in New Brunswick, said that the position of the provinces as regards illiteracy was unfairly stated in the Dominion Government statistics. These figures give New Brunswick the highest percentage of illiterates, and Dr. Carter showed that while the figures were correct, the statement was misleading. "The key to the whole matter," said the Chief Superintendent, "is that while in New Brunswick children begin school at the age of six, in all the other provinces they enter at the age of five. So children under six in New Brunswick would be classified as illiterates." He stated that the percentage of children attending in Grade VIII of the New Brunswick schools was as great as in any of the other provinces.

Miss Jessie Milligan read a paper on Composition in the Primary Grades. She advised the telling of stories to children, and suggested that the children should study pictures and be taught to tell stories from them. Principal W. H. Parlee, in his paper on Advanced Composition, dwelt on the arrangement of sentences, punctuation and paragraphing. Miss Gertrude Webb followed with a paper on Arithmetic, in which she strongly advised that the pupils be made to explain orally every statement made in solving problems. This paper was discussed by W. J. S. Myles, Principal of the High School, and J. Frank Owens, Principal of St. Patrick's School.

Miss Tilley McClelland read an instructive paper on Drawing. She advocated a definite plan of drawing for each school, to take up about twenty minutes every day; drawing from common objects rather than from copies; and the hanging of good pictures in the school room. Dr. Carter commended Miss McClelland's paper, and urged the importance of acquiring a skill in drawing as a foundation for industrial work. Mr. M. D. Brown, Miss Barlow, and Mr. Dykeman took part in the discussion following this paper.

Mr. Fletcher Peacock, Director of Manual Training, spoke in his usual practical and effective way of the importance of a definite system in Manual Training in Primary Grades. Dr. H. S. Bridges, Superintendent of St. John Schools, discussed Mr. Peacock's address.

A very full and most interesting paper on Nature Work was then read by Mr. A. Gordon Leavitt, who developed his subject on many sides, showing its economic, intellectual and aesthetic interests, and supporting his contentions by quotations from many great writers. He showed that love of animals and plants is natural in the young, pleaded for close observation in field and wood, for learning the common names and uses of natural objects, and said that an unselfish love of Nature and recognition of the rights of all created beings should be the outcome of the study.

On Friday afternoon, Director Steeves gave a very full address on the teaching of Agriculture and its importance to the country. Principal S. A. Worrell read an interesting paper on Rewards and Punishments, which was favourably commented on by Dr. Bridges.

Resolutions of regret were passed upon the deaths of Dr. G. U. Hay, late editor of the REVIEW, and Miss Jessie Caird.

The following officers were elected:—President, W. A. Nelson, Principal of Winter Street School; Vice-President, Norman H. Wetmore; Secretary, Miss Ida Keagin; Members of Executive, Miss Jessie Milligan, Miss Gertrude Webb.

In point of attendance and of interest, the Institute was one of the best ever held in St. John. Over two hundred teachers enrolled; the papers and addresses were of a high order and well repaid the close attention they commanded.

The teachers of Carleton and Victoria counties met for their Institute in the Fisher Memorial School Building, Woodstock, on Thursday and Friday, December 18 and 19, with an attendance of one hundred and thirty-seven. Inspector F. B. Meagher presided. Addresses were given by Mr. Fletcher Peacock, Director of Manual Training, and Mr. R. P. Steeves, Director of Elementary Agricultural Education, on their respective subjects. The Trustees and Ratepayers' meeting was a most successful one, well attended and prolonged, with great interest in the subjects under consideration, namely: Agriculture in the Schools, The Government of School Districts, and Consolidated Schools and District Union.

A fine paper by Mr. F. C. Squires on the Educative Value of Mathematics and Latin, given in the advanced section, was most inspiring to teachers of these subjects. In the intermediate section Geography, Civics, and Plant Study were taken up. In the Primary division lessons were given in Arithmetic by Miss Mabel Lister, and in Reading by Miss Clara Carson, and a good paper on Primary Difficulties was read by Miss Greta Gaskin. The lively, informal questioning and discussion drawn forth by these lessons showed that they were appreciated as useful and interesting.

On Thursday evening a pleasant informal reception was held by the teachers in the Assembly Hall.

On Friday morning a very valuable paper on the Teaching of Literature was read by Miss Gaynell S. Long.