

## COUNTY INSTITUTES.

## ST. JOHN COUNTY.

The annual meeting of the St. John County Teachers' Institute was held June 24th, in the Centennial school building. The retiring president, Mr. W. P. Dole, addressed a few words to the teachers, thanking them for the generous courtesy extended to him while he had been president of the Institute and during his performance of the duties of inspection of schools. The election of officers was proceeded with, and resulted as follows:

President—W. M. McLean, A. B.  
Vice-President—F. H. Hayes.  
Secretary-Treasurer—J. W. Hickson, A. B.  
Additional members of the executive committee—Miss Katie Kerr, Portland, and Miss Annie M. Hea, of St. John.

Mr. H. Town, principal of the Centennial building, read a paper on the Courses of Instruction in Primary Schools, describing, in the opinion of the writer, the best methods to pursue in the teaching of word building, composition, form, print, and print script, industrial drawing, mathematics, geography, history. Mr. Town touched upon all these subjects, giving prominence only to such parts of them as he considered most important to teachers. The paper was well written and contained many valuable "hints" and "helps" to teachers, especially to those who have recently entered the profession.

At the suggestion of Inspector Carter, several lady teachers engaged in primary work took part in the discussion which was of a very interesting and practical character, so much so that when an adjournment was moved at 4 p. m. it was lost almost unanimously. Among the ladies who took part in the discussion were Miss Hea, Miss Barlow, Miss Nugent, Miss Murphy and Miss McKay.

The Teachers' Institute met Friday morning at 9 a. m. After routine business had been disposed of, Mr. M. J. McKenna, B. A., was called upon to read a paper entitled, "How to deal with Indolent Pupils." As regards the word "Indolent" Mr. McKenna wished it to be understood only so far as it pertained to school duties or the preparation to home lessons, for it is generally taken in a much wider sense. The first thing to be done was to try to find out the cause of such indolence, for cause it surely had, as children were not generally indolent by nature. On investigation it would be invariably found to proceed from one or other of the following causes: The teacher himself; the parent or a sluggish vacillating disposition of the pupil. The manner, he said, by which teachers gave cause for indolence to their pupils was, as regards home lessons, in assigning a certain amount of work to be done by the pupil whilst home as a preparation for next day's work in school and through indifference or otherwise, neglecting to take the necessary means to find out whether such work had been satisfactorily done or not. This Mr. McKenna assigned as one of the most fruitful causes of non-preparation of home lessons. The best and only means to deal with such indolence as this, he said, was to ascertain by a careful, systematic examination whether the assigned or prescribed work had been prepared or not and if not to take the necessary means to enforce its preparation. In regard to indolence in school work, the teacher, he said, often caused it by an injudicious mode of instruction or questioning, in making himself a mere talking machine or in asking questions which required for an answer neither thought nor attention. Parents foster this indolence in their children by keeping them running errands and otherwise employed when they should be preparing their home lesson; also by a mistaken idea of kindness in writing for them excuses to the teacher upon the slightest pretext or whenever the children desired them to do so. As a remedy for this Mr. McKenna assigned home visitation by the teacher. As to that indolence which proceeded directly from the pupil's indisposition to study from whatever cause arising the teacher, he said, should ever manifest the greatest vigilance and interest in his work and should never fail to show, in a forcible manner, that he notices such lack of preparation or attention to study by the pupil with displeasure and should try expedient after expedient but always with kindness, firmness and prudence. This, he thought, would be sufficient to cure

the indolence of any ordinary pupil and set him on the rugged but pleasant path of study. Mr. McKenna was listened to with attention.

A discussion followed, after which Miss Grace Murphy read a paper on "Primary Geography," which is published in this issue of the JOURNAL. Resolutions of sympathy for the late D. O. C. McGilchrist, moved by D. P. Chisholm and seconded by Mr. Hay, were carried.

The next meeting of the Institute was appointed for the last Thursday and Friday of October, 1887.

Mr. J. E. Denn then read an instructive and valuable paper on "Canadian History," which was well received.

A motion was carried that the business of the meeting be suspended for a short time for the purpose of introducing a resolution that the teachers of this Institute convey to Mr. Dole the esteem in which he is held by them, coupled also with their best wishes in recognition of the many pleasing recollections during his term of service as Inspector. The resolution was carried unanimously. After some routine business the Institute adjourned to Mr. J. C. Miles' studio on Germain street, when the teachers listened to a valuable and practical address on drawing.

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

The eighth meeting of the Charlotte County Teachers' Institute was held in St. Andrews, June 24th and 25th.

In the absence of the President and Vice-president, Mr. James Vroom was appointed Chairman.

The Institute then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted as follows:—F. O. Sullivan, President; I. B. Oakes, Vice-president; T. A. Hartt, Secretary-Treasurer; S. W. Hartt, Assistant Secretary. Miss Algar, of St. Andrews, and Miss Alice M. Robinson, of St. Stephen, were elected additional members of the Committee of Management.

Forty-six members were enrolled. The fee was fixed at fifty cents for gentlemen and twenty-five cents for ladies. It is a matter of regret that some of the teachers present did not interest themselves enough in the advancement of their profession to enrol as members.

Mr. Wm. Brodie read a valuable paper on "Oral Lessons," in which he said these should embrace a variety of subjects; that they were important as a means of awakening sympathy between teachers and pupils; that the teachers, to avoid worry and confusion, should be well prepared before attempting a lesson, and that grammar, history, geography and botany should be introduced to the child by means of such lessons.

Miss Annie Veazey opened the discussion. Quite a number of teachers spoke to the subject, and considerable interest was manifested, in fact so much that the Misses Dowling, Dibblee and Veazey were requested to give oral lessons during the afternoon session. There was diversity of opinion in regard to the time to be set apart for these lessons and results obtained from them. Mr. Vroom thought that teachers often measured the success of their work in this subject in a wrong manner. They could not measure it by the amount of knowledge displayed at an examination. The true success of these lessons was found in the strengthening of the perceptive faculty.

After the roll-call and reading of minutes at the afternoon session, an audit committee consisting of Messrs. Brodie, Greenlaw and Burgess was appointed. The committee reported the balance on hand to be \$7 48.

The subject on the programme for the afternoon was called, and, as Mr. Lawson was absent, Mr. S. W. Hartt kindly consented to read the paper on "Health." The subject was well treated and the writer deserves much credit for the very interesting manner in which he presented it. The discussion was well opened by Mr. H. T. Greenlaw. The paper was further discussed by Messrs. Vroom, T. A. Hartt, and Brodie, and the Misses Hanson, Dowling, Veazey and others. On motion, the discussion closed.

At this point the Misses Dowling, Dibblee, and Veazey each gave an object lesson, which was well received by the Institute. These ladies formed a class from the members of the Institute, and very clearly illustrated their method of dealing with such lessons. It would be well if we could have more teaching at our Institutes, and thus give practical application to the methods employed in the various subjects under discussion. After a brief discussion

the Institute adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Friday morning.

On Friday morning, after roll call and reading of minutes, Miss Dowling read a practical paper on "Punctuality and Regularity of Attendance." The writer thoroughly ventilated the subject and strongly advocated gentleness on the part of the teacher in both cases. As Miss Fannie Thompson, who was to open the discussion on this paper, was not present, Mr. Brodie was on motion, requested to open the discussion. This paper was followed by a lively discussion, in which many of the teachers participated.

Mr. John Lawson formed a class from the members of the Institute, and took up his paper on "How to Teach Arithmetic, with Special Reference to General Principles." At the conclusion of the paper an adjournment was had for dinner.

When the afternoon session was opened and routine gone through, Mr. Vroom opened the discussion on Mr. Lawson's paper.

Mr. P. G. McFarlane's name was the next on the programme for a paper on "How to overcome the difficulties arising from changes in text books," but the gentleman was not present and had not sent in any paper. The determining of time and place of next meeting was, on motion, left to the Committee of Management. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Hon. B. R. Stevenson for his kindness in placing his hall at the disposal of the Institute. Votes of thanks were also passed to officers, readers of papers and openers of discussions. After singing the National Anthem the Institute adjourned.—*Courier*.

## KINGS COUNTY.

A number of teachers assembled at the superior school room Thursday morning at Hampton at 10 o'clock, D. P. Wetmore, Inspector of Schools, in the chair. Thirty-nine teachers enrolled themselves as members, by paying an enrollment fee of 15 cents.

After organizing, the following officers were elected, viz:—President, D. P. Wetmore, Inspector, vice-president, F. S. Chapman, principal superior school, Springfield, No. 2, secretary-treasurer, F. E. Whelpley, principal superior school, Hampton, No. 2; committee of management, the officers named, with Miss Marion Wetmore and Miss Bertha Robertson.

Routine business occupied the time at the first session.

At the second session, C. E. Black read an interesting paper on School Discipline. The following is an outline of the principal points made:—

All will concur with me in the truth of the statement that a teacher, supported with the sympathy, co-operation and good will of the parents, has a greater power for good in a school than one not so sustained. First impressions are lasting. A teacher entering on duties in a new school is, so to speak, a "stranger in a strange land." He must bear himself valiantly. Every teacher should strive to wear a kindly expression upon his face, yea, further, he should be kind at heart. The influence of a teacher is greatly felt by his scholars. They will notice the teacher's every action. Let us endeavor to obtain the love and good-will of our pupils. The teacher should strive to convince the parents that he has a personal interest in the advancement of each child. The teacher should be on friendly terms with every person in the district—not inflicting his company on every family, nor yet bringing himself to the level of every individual. I have found a friendly visit has sometimes done a power of good. Confidence once gained is not easily lost. Let the teacher, therefore, gain the esteem and the confidence of the parents. Although the teacher may feel timid when beginning his work, we assert that he should have confidence in himself. The first thing a teacher should do on entering a school is to study closely the mind and disposition of each pupil. He should study each child's weak points.

The reading of this paper was followed by a discussion, in which F. S. Chapman, C. W. Corey, D. P. Wetmore, F. E. Whelpley, C. F. Alward, Miss Marion Wetmore, Geo. Wetmore, and J. E. Wetmore took an active part.

J. W. Campbell, during the discussion, read an excellently prepared essay on Rewards and Punishments.

The president referred the teachers to the NEW BRUNSWICK EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

Adjourned.