

more work of any kind can be accomplished when done systematically than when done without plan.

2. It does away with the old system of turning the children back to the beginning of the book every time a new teacher comes.

3. It enables the inspector to do the work of two hours in one, and to do it more thoroughly.

4. It encourages a noble emulation among teachers, which is in the highest degree beneficial to the schools.

5. It enables the trustees and parents to examine the school intelligently and thereby the more thoroughly appreciate the services of a really superior teacher and pay him or her accordingly.

6. It excites the pupils to greater regularity in attendance. It stimulates the idle ones to greater diligence.

7. It keeps up a permanent classification so that a new teacher takes up the work just where his predecessor left off, thus saving many weeks of valuable time.

8. In rural sections it reduces to a minimum the evils resulting from the unhappy frequency of changing teachers.

9. It is the teacher's plan, rule, square and compass by which he builds his educational structure.

Much, very much, of its usefulness depends upon the manner a teacher operates the course.

I state unhesitatingly that the common school course of our province stands forth as one of the grandest measures, one of the most emphatic examples of progressive development that the educational history of Nova Scotia contains.

On Wednesday evening a crowded public meeting was held, presided over by Sir Adams Archibald, with his usual tact and geniality. Addresses were delivered by the Chairman, by Superintendents Crockett and Montgomery, of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Rand, and Professor Higgins, of Acadia College, of the Provincial Board of Examiners. At the opening of Thursday morning's session, Principal McKay, of Pictou, read an elaborate paper on "Spelling Reform," in which he strongly advocated the adoption of the phonetic method of spelling words. English orthography he characterizes as utterly arbitrary and lawless. Children were doomed to irksome tasks for nothing. The paper abounded in "points," and was brimful of humor. Statistical calculations were presented, showing the enormous waste involved in our present system of word jugglery. The essayist anticipated great good from the efforts of philological societies, which were laboring in the interests of this great reform. The paper was discussed by Principal Calkin, Professor Eaton, and the Assistant Secretary adversely, and by Inspector McDonald and the President with bearings rather in its favor.

The Association was then addressed by D. Montgomery, Esq., Chief Superintendent of Education for Prince Edward Island. Mr. Montgomery spoke interestingly, comparing the system of education of the island with that of this Province. The address was well received as it contained much information concerning educational matters in that Province. He also expressed his pleasure at being present and participating in the exercises of the present convention and he further expressed a hope that in the near future there would be a convention of teachers of the Maritime Provinces, to meet in Truro, Pictou, Moncton, Halifax, or any other place selected for that purpose, and he would promise a good representation of teachers from his Province.

The nominating and balloting for the Executive Committee took place and resulted in the following being elected members:—Inspector McDonald; Supervisor McKay, city schools, Halifax; Professor Eaton, Normal School, Truro; Principal McKay, Academy Instructor; Inspector Morse, Bridgetown.

Prof. F. Eaton, of the Provincial Normal School, delivered the last formal address of the occasion. He dealt vigorously with various features of an educational system, in which he thought amendment was desirable. Several speakers expressed the opinion that in the course of study for common schools, the requirements for Grammar in the Intermediate Grades were excessive. The Superintendent of Education concurred in this opinion, and promised that attention would be given to the matter. Among items of miscellaneous business transacted were the following:—

Moved by Dr. McKenzie seconded by Inspector Congdon, that a committee be appointed to confer with the Superintendent as to the advisability of having for the Provincial Schools a single school term, embracing a period of ten months. Passed.

Principal Calkin moved and Dr. McKenzie seconded that it be advisable to ask the Council of Public Instruction to disallow the engagement of third-class teachers by sections of a certain amount of wealth. Passed.

Principal McKay proposed a new method of ascertaining the number of schoolable children in each section. He said under the present method, or as things have been done, this question in our semi-annual returns is rarely ever correctly answered.

Principal Calkin moved, and Secretary McKenzie seconded:

Resolved, That the Association having learned with much satisfaction that the Provincial Medical Association are moving in the matter of physical training of our youth, and having read with great pleasure the admirable address upon the subject delivered by Dr. Stewart, of Pictou, a committee be appointed to co-operate with the Medical Society in memorializing the legislature on the subject.

The following were appointed the committee:—Principal Calkin, Inspector McKenzie, Superintendent McKay, Principal Congdon (Dartmouth).

Upwards of 370 teachers were enrolled, and the session was pretty unanimously voted the most profitable and enjoyable yet held. The presence and aid of Superintendents Crockett and Montgomery added much to the interest and profit of the occasion.

Literary Chat-Chat.

William Black's wonderful powers of descriptive word-painting are illustrated in "White Heather," which is being re-published in the *Norelist*.

"Prince Bismarck sketched by His Secretary," is one of the most interesting articles lately reproduced in Littell's *Living Age*.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co's. American Edition of General Gordon's Diary will shortly be given to the public.

It is reported that Mr. Lowell will devote himself to the completion of his "Life of Hawthorne," for the American Men of Letter Series.

Hobart Pasha maintains that the danger from torpedoes is much less than is generally supposed, and is about to publish a book discounting the torpedo scare, by means of facts within his observation and experience.

Ginn & Co. are about to publish several books of interest to the teaching profession, one the "Elements of Co-Ordinate Geometry," by W. B. Smith, Professor of Mathematics, Central College, Missouri. Another "The Elements of Chemistry," Descriptive and Qualitative. A text-book for beginners. By James H. Shepard, Instructor in Chemistry, Ypsilanti High School, Mich., and a third "Outlines of Medieval and Modern History." By P. N. N. Myers, A.M., author of "Ancient History" and "Remains of Lost Empires." The first is to be issued this month, and the others in September.

The Board of Management of the North, Central and South American Exposition, to be opened at New Orleans, next November, for a period of five months, announces a series of special days for the celebration of subjects peculiarly American and hemispherical in their scope. We notice amongst other celebrations an "American Peace Day," an "American Press Day," and an "American Musical Congress."

Question Drawer.

QUESTIONS.

1. Please explain "Standard Time."
2. Publish a map illustrating "Standard Time."

RODERICK DREW.

Please publish in your CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL the town and province or state, in which the following Colleges or Universities are. Namely—Brown, Williams, Bates, Cornell, Amherst, Tufts, Colby, Hamilton, Rochester, Richmond.

J. M. N.

Some time ago I read that a teacher who had been dismissed before the end of the term, was suing for a share of the holiday pay, according to the new school law. I will be much pleased if you will note the case in the JOURNAL and the decision also the clause in the law on which he bases his claim.

Cobourg, Aug 5th, 1885.

S. T. HORNER.