

**Principal I. B. Oakes, M. A.**

Principal I. B. Oakes, M. A., whose portrait appears upon this page, is a son of the late Jesse Oakes, of Albany, Annapolis Co., N. S. After a common school course he studied at Horton Academy, matriculating in 1866, graduating with honors in 1871, and capturing the Alumni Essay Prize of \$40.00 in his senior year.

The subject of his graduating oration was, "The Teacher," indicating a bias toward the profession to which he has given the greater portion of his years. He taught the High School at Hantsport for one year after graduating. He then went on a six months' tour to England and the Continent, visiting many schools and colleges. In 1873 he took charge of the Kent County Academy, N. B., holding that position four years, when he was unanimously elected out of thirty two competitors for the Principalship of the Northumberland County Academy at Chatham, which position he held till 1879, when he was appointed Inspector of Schools, with St. Stephen as a centre. In 1885 he was promoted to the Inspectorate of High and Grammar Schools and schools of all incorporated towns in the Province. In this year also Mr. Oakes inaugurated the Arbor Day movement at St. Stephen, when several hundred trees were planted upon the school grounds and streets of that town. In the following year he appointed an Arbor Day throughout his Inspectorate when over 1600 trees were planted. Other places began to follow the good example and in 1887 the N. B. Board of Education, under the influence of the movement, established by law an annual Arbor Day for the whole province. This day has been enthusiastically observed every year since, and to day thousands of well grown trees, shrubs and flowers on the school premises throughout New Brunswick witness to the good effects produced. As teacher and Inspector Mr. Oakes took a prominent part in Educational Institutes, over many of which he presided, giving them through addresses and papers the benefits of his knowledge and experience.

In 1888 at the urgent request of the Board of Governors of Acadia University he resigned his position in N. B. to assume the Principalship of Horton Academy. The increased attendance at this Institution, the large number of annual matriculants, the building and equipment of the Manual Training Department, (now nearly free of debt), the improvements made in the Academy Home, and the balance on the right side of the accounts for several years past, sufficiently indicate the success of Principal Oakes' regime.

Principal Oakes is a member of the Senate of the University, one of the Provincial Examiners under the Common School System of Nova Scotia and a member of the Wolfville School Board of Commissioners.

**Horton Collegiate Academy.**

Although hard-pressed with the many duties incident to his position, Principal Oakes has very kindly taken time to pen for the Union the following sentences.

"Horton Academy has just entered upon the 70th year of its history under encouraging conditions.

"Already the Academy Home is filled



with earnest students and the enrolment has reached about seventy.

"Aylesford is represented by one of its brightest boys, Ernest Eaton, son of G. W. Eaton, Esq.

"P. E. Island is more largely represented than for years and N. B. has sent in a good contingent. Among her students are sons of Hon. H. R. Emerson; Senator G. G. King and T. B. Calhoun, Esq. Many of the students are active Christians.

"There is need of increased accommodation for student boarders and for class rooms.

"Every year a considerable number of young men ranging from 18 to 25 years of age are seized with an ambition to fit themselves by education for Christian usefulness, and these in most cases pay

their own way, largely by vacation earnings. This number could be largely increased, if the superior advantages of the Academy were made more widely known by judicious advertising, and if all our pastors and other friends of the Wolfville Institutions would watch for opportunities of encouraging young men to attend. Thus would not only more young people be prepared for but would take the University Course, and thus the number of cultured Baptists would be considerably enlarged, to the manifest advantage of our whole denominational life. What more appropriate and praiseworthy thing could many of our churches do, than to select a worthy young man and encourage him to attend Horton Academy, by paying when necessary a good portion of his expenses for one or two years till prepared to enter the University? With such a start he could and would, in most cases, complete his course at his own expense."

Principal Oakes regrets that he is unable through lack of time to speak at length of the special claims which Horton Academy has upon the sympathy and support of Maritime Baptists, but calls our attention to a few facts which certainly ought not in justice to the Academy to be lost sight of. The health history of the institution is rather remarkable. In 70 years not a single death has occurred among its students while in attendance. The important place which Horton Academy occupies in our educational system may be judged by the fact that nearly all its matriculants enter Acadia University. Nor is its service to the denomination less important. Within ten years over 60 of its students have entered upon the gospel ministry, more than half of whom are already ordained pastors. One more fact deserves especial mention. By the practice of the most careful economy the Academy has held for the past ten

years a unique position among the Wolfville institutions in point of finance. Without any proper endowment and with a debt of \$10,000 to pay interest upon, it has paid its own way, while other departments of the University have had constantly recurring annual deficits. We question if any similar institution in Canada can exhibit a like record.

In conclusion, too much cannot easily be said in commendation of the splendid sacrifice of Principal Oakes and the faithful sharer of his labors, in remaining in the Academy Home during the past nine years, much to their inconvenience and personal discomfort. No other principal since the Academy was founded ever thus gave the students the benefit of personal

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