

ever they send in their returns within a reasonable time; and as to the Catholic Dissentients of St. Andrews, they not having sent in their return in due time for the second half year of 1862, the whole grant was paid to the Protestant School Commissioners on the 22nd January, 1863, which is precisely the reverse of the statement made by Mr. Banowes.

(To be concluded in our next.)

Twenty-third Conference of the Teachers' Association in connection with the Laval Normal School.

The first sitting was opened on the 26th August, at 7 o'clock P. M.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and adopted, Messrs. Lafrance and Létourneau lectured on botany and the reforms needed to improve the condition of teachers, and after a lively discussion on the last mentioned topic the meeting adjourned to the following day.

At 9 o'clock A. M. on the 27th, the teachers assembled were called to order, and the Treasurer submitted a statement of the finances, as approved by the Council, which was adopted.

It appears by this statement that the Association is clear of debt, and that the Treasurer has a balance of \$66.07 on hand.

Moved by Mr. Létourneau, seconded by Mr. Lafrance, and Resolved,—That a committee be named to ascertain what changes are required in the school law, with instructions to report at the next meeting to the end that the matter may be laid before the Legislature during the ensuing session.

The following office-bearers were then elected for the ensuing year:

President: Mr. Thibault; *Vice-President:* Mr. Cloutier; *Secretary:* Mr. Carrier; *Treasurer:* Mr. Gauvin; *Council:* Messrs. Dufresne, Lacasse, Lafrance, Létourneau, Lefebvre, Dion, Gilbert, Gagné, and Ryan.

Mr. Carrier read an essay on *Electricity*; after which three prizes for the best specimens of penmanship were awarded as follows:

1st Prize, Andrew Miller; 2nd Prize, John Newton; 3rd Prize, Louis Dion and F. X. Dion.

The winners of these prizes were all pupils of the Laval Normal School. A long discussion then arose on the subject proposed at the last meeting, viz.: *Conditions necessary to form a good reader*; after which a vote of thanks was, on motion of Mr. Lacombe, tendered to the retiring officers of the Association.

Moved by Mr. Lacasse, seconded by Mr. Cloutier, and

Resolved,—That this Association would respectfully represent to the School Commissioners within the circumscription of the Laval Normal School that, as it is much to be desired that all teachers engaged in the schools should receive *le Journal de l'Instruction Publique*, the price of subscription be added to the salaries of their respective teachers, with the understanding that the Journal shall remain as the property of the school; that the Inspectors of Schools be requested to use their influence with the School Commissioners to secure the object which this Association has in view; and that a list of the municipalities that shall have complied with the request herein expressed be submitted at the next meeting of the Association.

The School Inspectors present acquiesced in the views laid down in the above resolution and expressed their willingness to carry them into effect.

Messrs. Bardy and Juneau, School Inspectors, and Messrs. Thibault, Lafrance, Ahern, and several other members promised lectures on divers subjects for the next meeting.

It was then announced that the subject for future discussion would be *The Amendments to be proposed in the School Law*, and the meeting adjourned to the last Friday in January next.

Extracts from the Reports of the School Inspectors, for the years 1861 and 1862.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Inspector HUBBARD.

(Concluded.)

COUNTIES OF RICHMOND AND WOLFE.

20. *Shipton*.—This municipality sustains a good character as to its schools; though it does not stand among the first class in my district in all respects, it is ahead of others in this division. The commissioners manage the affairs well, and the accounts are well kept. A good assessment is levied and promptly collected through

the Municipal Council—a plan which works well in this municipality. Nearly enough is raised in this way, with the Government grant, to pay the teachers; and in nearly all the districts the teachers are paid at or before the expiration of their term. 17 districts are now reckoned, No. 15 having been, this year, united with No. 1. I may remark that I think Nos. 14 and 16 should be united, as they are both too small to sustain efficient schools.

Danville Academy has continued in successful operation under the same teacher as last year, S. M. Pearl, A. B. Under the thorough and efficient tuition of the present teacher, this school is of great service.

All the schools in Shipton are English. I think that there are not enough French children in any section to render it advisable to establish a French school, though I have brought the matter before the commissioners.

21. *Melbourne and Brompton Gore*.—This municipality has the same number of districts as last year, though more schools have been kept. The number of actual districts is 15, though 18 are numbered. There has, I think, been a fair degree of improvement in the schools generally. The funds are not as promptly provided, nor teachers as promptly paid as they should be. I saw no reason for finding fault with the accounts, except want of promptness in collecting. The application of funds is, perhaps, judicious, though not strictly legal. (The same remark should have been made with reference to Shipton and a few other municipalities.) A change is, I think needed in the management of Districts 1, 2, and 8. No. 18 (French school)—This school has also improved since last year; the house is comfortable, and the children are doing well. It is taught by a male teacher in winter, and by a female in summer. The school houses are generally rather poor, though numerous and respectable.

The Female Seminary has been kept in operation during the year, under good teachers, and with increased attendance.

22. *Village of Melbourne*.—I regret that I am unable to report any improvement in the school affairs of this municipality. The commissioners, last year, very tardily effected an organization, levied a light assessment, and partly collected it. No one seems inclined to incur the cost and risk of a suit against the commissioners. No school has been kept in the municipality during the year, except, perhaps, a short private school.

23. *Cleveland and dissentients*.—In this municipality there are still ten districts under the commissioners, and one dissentient. Schools have been kept, for some part of the year, in all the districts under the commissioners, and for all the year except in three districts. I am unable to report as much improvement in this municipality as I could wish. There seems to be a want of efficiency on the part of the commissioners in seeing that suitable teachers are employed, and the school houses properly cared for: an evil which, I am sorry to say, is not confined to this township. The funds are tolerably well received and appropriated, and the accounts well kept. I have strongly urged upon the commissioners the necessity of more care and attention in the selection and employment of teachers. It is true that the schools are mostly backward, but they will always remain so as long as incompetent and inefficient teachers are employed.

The dissentient school has not been in operation during the year, as the district has been engaged in building a school-house. This is now completed, and the school is opening under, I believe, a very competent teacher. The trustees seem to be getting their affairs into a better way, and will, I hope, go on well. This school will teach both English and French.

St. Francis College and Preparatory Department has been well sustained, though the attendance has not, I think, been quite equal to that of the previous year. The instruction in both departments has been very thorough, and the progress of the students very commendable, as appeared at the annual examination.

24. *Brompton*.—There has been no particular change in the school affairs of this municipality. The five districts have all sustained good schools, and the affairs are very well managed by the commissioners. Competent teachers, with diplomas, are secured at a fair salary, and promptly paid. The funds are well provided and judiciously appropriated.

25. *Windsor*.—This municipality, since the separation from it of St. George de Windsor, retains four districts, though one of them is so small and poor that it has not yet built a school-house nor established a school. One of the others, No. 2, has been established as a model school, though the municipality is too small to afford it an extra allowance from the grant of funds. A nominal