

## NOVA SCOTIA.

The third annual meeting of the teachers' association for inspectorial district No. 7 (Cape Breton and Richmond counties), was held in the new academy, Sydney, on the 22nd and 23rd of June. The Superintendent of Education, Dr. Allison, and the inspector of schools, Mr. M. J. T. Macneil were present and contributed greatly to the interest and success of the meeting. The latter gentlemen presided *ex officio* over the association, Mr. C. P. Moore was chosen Vice-President and B. McKittrick, B. A., Secretary-Treasurer. The following constitute the executive committee. Miss A. H. Hamilton, Miss A. C. Jost, and Messrs. C. F. Cameron, J. L. Kelly, D. R. McLellan, with the executive officers. Seventy-eight teachers were enrolled as members. The formal exercises opened with a paper on "Reading" by Mr. C. F. Cameron. The writer advocated strongly the simple and natural method of beginning with the easy and proceeding to the more difficult. On this ground both the alphabetic and phonic methods of teaching the elements of reading were condemned. The paper elicited much hearty and profitable discussion. Mr. C. P. Moore followed with a paper on "Drawing," in which he advocated the introduction of industrial drawing into our schools both on educational and utilitarian grounds. The Superintendent of Education expressed earnest concurrence in the spirit and scope of Mr. Cameron's essay, and while proud of our school system as a whole feared that in this respect we were in danger of being surpassed by the schools of other countries. This paper also was earnestly discussed. At the opening of the afternoon session Mr. D. R. McLellan presented a paper on the "Unitary method" in arithmetic, coupled with instructive, illustrative exercises. Dr. Allison pointed out that the utility of the unitary method became apparent when we reflected that in solving a problem the great point was to get in a central position from which we could view it in all its bearings. Other speakers followed with interesting remarks and criticisms. Some unavoidable cause having broken up the rest of the regular programme for the afternoon, several educational topics of importance were discussed in an informal manner. The evening session was held in the Temperance Hall. Inspector Macneil efficiently presided, and after an introductory song from an excellent choir, introduced the Superintendent of Education, whose address was an exposition and defence of our system of schools with some suggestions for its improvement. He appreciated the sympathy expressed rather than felt for the "three R's," but did not regard those useful branches as exposed to any danger from studies equally useful. Each age has its characteristics and its necessities. It is no disrespect to the memory of great and good men who have passed away to say that what did for them will not do for us. Nova Scotia in view of the needs of the present hour must educate her children as well as rival communities are educating theirs, or fall behind in the race of progress. He paid a warm compliment to the people of Sydney for the noble edifice which they had consecrated to the interests of education.—Rev. Messrs. Smith (Episcopalian) and Farquharson (Presbyterian) moved and seconded a heartily adopted vote of thanks to the Superintendent. The next day's exercises were ushered in with a paper on grammar by Mr. C. F. Hall. The essayist ably discussed some of the deeper mysteries of the science of language. A lively discussion sprang up, participated in by Dr. Allison, Mr. McKittrick, Mr. Blackett and others. "Cramming" formed the subject of the next essay, which was prepared and read by Angus Chisholm, B. A. In a striking manner the evils of the undigested cramming of verbal formulae were pointed out and the nature of valid educational processes unfolded. Dr. Allison agreed with all the speaker had said but thought there was some danger of going to the other extreme and undervaluing, and therefore neglecting the memory, one of the most marvellous of our intellectual faculties. Other speakers followed all conceding great excellence to Mr. Chisholm's paper. In the afternoon Mr. B. McKittrick, B. A. discussed the subject of geometry and the normal method of teaching it. He advocated teaching the fundamental truth in preliminary oral lessons with copious concrete illustrations. This was followed by the concluding exercise of the association, an essay on "School hygiene" by Mr. C. W. Blackett. This subject, which was very ably treated, was enforced in some earnest and eloquent remarks by Inspector Macneil in which he gave the teachers present excellent practical advice. A noteworthy feature of the association was the large attendance, as spectators, of ladies and gentlemen interested in education. Many of the foremost professional men of Sydney honoured the teachers with their presence and kindly words of cheer. The closing exercises of the Provincial normal school were held on the 11th of July. They fully sustained the reputation of the institu-

tion. The order of proceedings, as far as students' exercises were concerned, was as follows:—(1) Lessons in Decimals, by Mr. Bowles of Cornwallis; (2) Lessons on the Lover, by Miss Crowell of Barrington; (3) Lessons in Drawing, (from dictation) by Miss Palfrey of Lawrencetown; (4) Lessons in Zoology, by Mr. McDonald of Margaree; (5) Lessons in Geography (Egypt) by Miss Freeman of Liverpool. These lessons, while unequal in merit all bespoke faithful work on the part of the normal school faculty. The Principal J. B. Calkin, M. A. reported the total number of enrolled pupil teachers for the year as 121, with an average attendance of about 100. The number reported as receiving diplomas, or certificates of professional classification, was 81, classified as follows: 6 grade Superior; 47 grade Good; 28 grade Fair. The names and averages on professional work of the winners of Grade Superior are as follows:—Miss Freeman, Liverpool 80; Miss Jackson, Cornwallis 78; Miss Crowell, Barrington 78; Miss Robertson, Barrington 76; Mr. J. D. McLeod, St. Anns C. B. Mr. W. H. Magee, Cornwallis 75. The following head the list in the record of general scholarship with an average of 75 and upwards; Miss Crowell 79.4; Mr. W. H. Magee 79.3; Miss Jackson 79.2; Miss Freeman 77.9; Miss Robertson 77.2; Miss Miller, Stellarton 76.3; Miss Hamilton, Steniack 75.6; Mr. D. McD. Clarke, West River, 75.2; Miss Clarke, West River, 75; Mr. J. D. McLeod, 75. The Governor-General's medals were won as follows: Silver medal Miss Crowell; Bronze medal, Miss Jackson. The medals not having arrived, certificates of award were presented to the above young ladies by his honor the Lieutenant-Governor, whose presence graced the occasion, as it has done for many years, the closing exercises of the institution. The subject of the essays written in competition for the medals was "Pestalozzianism and modern methods of education." The adjudicating committee consisted of Rev. Dr. Sawyer, President of Acadia college; Mr. R. Murray, editor of the *Presbyterian Witness*, and the Superintendent of Education. The portions read of the prize essays conveyed a very favourable impression of their literary merit. At the conclusion of the formal exercises, brief addresses in response to invitations from the Principal were delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Archibald and Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education. The reporter of one of the Halifax papers summarizes their remarks as follows; "The Governor drew a graphic picture of the progress of education in the province, and paid a warm tribute to the excellent moral tone which has characterized the normal school from its first establishment. Incidentally, his Honor expressed himself as strongly in form of university consolidation. Dr. Allison briefly referred to a still desirable elevation of public sentiment in respect to the appreciation and remuneration of teachers' services. Both speakers gave expression to the universal feeling of the large audience that the exercises of the students were exceedingly meritorious." In the afternoon a number of graduates of the normal school met and organized a society of Alumni, with officers as follows: President, E. M. Chesley, M. A. Yarmouth; Vice-President, H. Waddel, Halifax, Secy-Treasurer, W. Mortimer McVicar, Truro. The society proposes to benefit their *Alma Mater* and promote good fellowship by an annual celebration and dinner.

It is understood that the Church of England synod of the diocese of New Brunswick has recognized the theological department of King's college, Windsor, as the Divinity School of that Diocese. An application for similar recognition has also been made to the Diocese of Newfoundland.

Four candidates wrote at the recent examination for the Gilchrist scholarship at Halifax.

The annual Encenial exercises of King's college, Windsor, were held on the 29th of June. The sermon required by statute was preached in the Parish Church by the very Rev. Canon Dart, President of the university. The learned preacher eloquently expounded the relations, harmonies, and differentiating conditions of science and religion. At the Enconia proper the President delivered an interesting oration on the cultivation of a literary taste. The exciting subject of a year ago, collegiate consolidation, seemed entirely lost sight of. His lordship Bishop Binney, and Rev. Mr. Brigstocke, Rector of Trinity Church, St. John N.B. also delivered addresses. A number of degrees both in *curso* and *pro honoris causa* were conferred.

On a recent visit to Cape Breton, the Superintendent of Education pronounced the new academy at Sydney, as, next to the Halifax high school and the Pictou academy, the finest academic structure in the province.