

upon the fine house just completed, and expressed a hope that they might set an example to the governors of the college in the matter of beautifying and improving the grounds.

Prof. Oakes spoke at some length on the importance of Civics as a subject of study in the schools. He thought that every school boy should be taught his duty and responsibility as a citizen.

Prof. F. H. Eaton urged the importance of optional studies in the public schools.

Prof. Faville, who is to have charge of the Horticultural school to be opened in Wolfville in January, was introduced and spoke for a short time in regard to the work he came to do.

Prof. E. M. Keirstead was the last speaker. He emphasized the importance of good ventilation in school buildings, and referred to the paper and lesson of Miss Burgoyne in very complimentary terms. Excellent vocal and instrumental music was furnished by Mrs. Witter, Mrs. Crandall, and Miss Fitch.

Friday, a. m. The session began by voting that the next meeting of the Association be held in Windsor.

The following are the officers:—Inspector Roscoe, President; J. A. Smith, B. A., Vice-President; C. E. Seaman, B. A., Sec.-Treasurer. Executive Committee:—Principal Crombie; Principal Robinson; Miss Burgoyne, Miss McIntosh.

Mr. E. H. Nichols, B. A., of Kentville, read a paper on "Normal Schools." He advocated the necessity of teachers having professional training to place them on an equality with the other professions. Mr. J. A. Smith, B. A., of Windsor, introduced the "Metric System" by a short paper, in which he gave its history and claims upon us; and taught an excellent lesson illustrating the system. He thinks it must soon come into general use. The Superintendent of Education followed, showing the necessity of maintaining this simple system, and thanking Mr. Smith for presenting it so clearly. The discussion of the various subjects was an interesting feature of the Association. Messrs. McLeod, Smith, Robinson, Lee, Sturk, Dr. Hall, Prof. Coldwell, Prof. Oakes, Dr. MacKay and others participated in it.

The Superintendent of Education preferred to come in incidentally to answer questions, instead of giving a formal address or paper on "Science." A number of such questions came up during the meeting, which were readily and very satisfactorily answered by Dr. MacKay. He is certainly at home, with chalk in hand, before the blackboard, elucidating some perplexing point of science. At all these meetings Dr. MacKay put himself in touch with the teachers and their work, and seemed to delight to

answer questions put to him. The teachers of this District hold the Superintendent in high esteem. To quote from two of their reports: (1) To the *Hants Journal*, "It is needless to say that Superintendent MacKay has won the respect and esteem of all." (2) To *Halifax Herald*, "It was an inspiration to the teachers to come in contact with him who is now the head of our public school system. Dr. MacKay will always be welcome among us."

A vote of thanks to the people of Wolfville for free entertainment, and short addresses by Dr. MacKay and Inspector Roscoe, brought the Association to a close.

ST. JOHN COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The St. John County Teachers' Institute met in the Centennial School building December 21st at 10 A. M. Thos. Stothart, President, in the Chair, Malcolm D. Brown, Secretary. The enrolment fee was fixed at 25 cents. About 170 teachers enrolled. The Treasurer's report was read, showing a balance of \$5.41. An excellent paper on Drawing was read by Mr. J. Harrington. The discussion on the paper was participated in by Messrs. G. U. Hay, Inspector Carter, Miss Murphy, Thos. O'Reilly, W. H. Parlee, and James Barry. Mr. W. D. Baskin, one of the St. John School Board, who was present, said—he believed the curriculum was overloaded and imposed a strain upon the pupils. He also was of the opinion that the mode of grading pupils was defective, and expressed a desire to have the matter discussed. Inspector Carter replied, stating that greater demands were being made upon the schools each year, and that we must keep step with the times. Instead of the course of study being curtailed, the prospects were that it would be enlarged. He also thought that few, if any, pupils were injured attaining a mere pass, but that as in every other competition, overwork was the result of ambition to excel and obtain prizes or standing. He moved that an hour of the afternoon session be devoted to the discussion of grading pupils. This was carried. After enrolment in the afternoon, Miss M. E. Hayes read a practical paper on Composition. It was discussed by James Barry, W. T. Kerr and others. The question of grading was then taken up and provoked a lively discussion. Messrs. Baskin, Coll, Nase and Hetherington, of the St. John School Board were present. The majority of the speakers were of the opinion that the grading should be by the teachers alone. The minority favored the idea that the teachers should have a large voice in the matter, but that the responsibility should be shared with the officers of the Board. The speakers were Henry Town, G. U. Hay, James Barry,