

Teachers' Institute.**INSPECTORAL DISTRICT NO. 5, KINGS AND HANTS COUNTIES, N. S.**

The annual meeting of the Teachers' Institute of District No. 5, embracing the Counties of Kings and Hants, N. S., was held at Berwick, Kings Co., April 30th and May 1st. The first session commenced at one o'clock p. m., and after a short introductory address by the President, Inspector Roscoe, the first paper on the programme was read. The scope of the paper was to present the Best Methods of Teaching Science. The writer emphasized the importance of enlisting the aid of pupils in preparing material and of developing the powers of observation and judgment. It was a most practical and suggestive paper and elicited the hearty support of the Superintendent of Education and others.

Miss O. Smith, teacher of drawing in the Provincial Normal School, Truro, was present by request, and spoke at some length on the subject of Perspective Drawing, and in a clear methodical way taught by diagrams the first principles of this somewhat difficult subject.

Professor J. F. Tufts, of Acadia College, was introduced and gave some valuable hints on the Method of Teaching History. The chief points were, cultivate the reasoning powers by teaching epochs, the general use of larger histories for reference, teach geography with history, the use of some fixed dates, and get the interest of the pupils so awakened that they will see that the subject is most important. The discussion which followed brought out the fact that any book must only serve as a guide. Especial stress was laid on the method of summarizing.

The Institute then adjourned to meet in the evening at eight o'clock in the capacity of a public meeting. It was held in the Baptist church, which was crowded. President Roscoe presided and read a paper prepared by Miss B. Hebb, in her absence, on School Equipment. The paper laid stress on the general furnishings of the school-room, more particularly on the use of charts, models, etc.

E. Hart Nichols read a paper on the Great Men of Nova Scotia, dealing with Johnstone, Howe, Archibald, Parker, Welsford, and made a strong plea for patriotic pupils.

Miss Charlotte Mumford gave a very neatly written paper on Professional Etiquette. It was most opportune, for the spirit of cutting salaries is practised to some extent, and is a growing evil.

The Superintendent of Education closed the meeting with a pithy address, comparing present methods with past, and put in a strong plea for scientific teaching

and its beneficial results. The resident clergymen welcomed the teachers, and the church choir and others supplied suitable music.

On Friday, the first session was divided, taking High School topics and Common School ones in separate rooms.

Murray McNally taught a lesson to Grade IX. on the Distribution of Heat, using apparatus to illustrate his method. It was a most instructive lesson and well taught.

C. W. Brown gave a short outline of his methods of teaching Arithmetic, especially commission, interest, discount, etc., which was well received.

Mrs. R. DeW. Archibald taught a lesson on Minerals to a class of Grade V, and proved herself a good teacher. The leading qualities of minerals were taken up and specimens were given each pupil to examine as to color, hardness, streak, etc.

Miss Ida A. Parker taught a lesson to beginners in Music, which was well received and proved most interesting.

A short lesson on the Metric System by N. A. Osborne, brought the session to a close. Owing to lack of time a part of the programme had to be omitted.

At the closing session, the nominating committee reported officers for the ensuing year as follows, which was adopted. Vice-president, L. D. Robinson; Sec'y-treasurer, J. A. Smith; Executive Committee, A. N. McLeod, M. McNally, Miss L. Scott, Mrs. R. DeW. Archibald.

Five delegates were appointed to Provincial Association which meets at Truro in October, J. F. Godfrey, C. W. Brown, J. A. Smith, Miss B. Hebb, Miss Ida Parker.

Votes of thanks were extended to the Berwick teachers for aid given, and to Miss O. Smith for her instructive teaching.

Superintendent MacKay briefly addressed the Institute, complimenting the district on such a fine attendance (115), and the ardor shown by the teachers in their work, and thought it argued well for the future of this part of the province along educational lines.

The Institute in point of numbers was the largest ever held in this district and was not the least inferior in interest and enthusiasm.

Drawing is the most difficult subject in which teachers are expected to give instruction. It is one in which the best results cannot be expected until the subject has been systematically taught for several years; for teachers must acquire knowledge of the subject, and must then discover the best methods of instruction; they must also have pupils who have been prepared for the work by that given in all the preceding grades.—A. K. Cross.