

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS.

The Interprovincial Education Convention for the three Atlantic Provinces met in the Technical College, Halifax, on August 26th, 27th and 28th, with a very satisfactory attendance. The session opened on Wednesday morning with short welcoming speeches by Superintendent MacKay and Principal Sexton. Dr. Carter, Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, the presiding officer, gave the opening address.

The subjects dealt with were varied, but speaking generally, they had to do with the larger issues in the Educational world, and most of the papers and speeches were very informing, and of great interest. Besides the speakers engaged in Educational work in the Maritime Provinces, the Convention was addressed by Dr. James W. Robertson, C.M.G. of Ottawa, Dr. W. E. Fernald, Superintendent of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble Minded, and Mr. Harlan I. Smith, Archaeologist of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Dr. Robertson spoke at some length on Vocational, Industrial and Technical Education on Wednesday afternoon, and again at the public meeting that evening. His addresses were deeply stirring and impressive. He pleaded that "the great art of living" be not lost sight of, and for the right of every Canadian to learn to live a happy and useful life. He urged that the "three R's" should early be mastered as *arts*, the art of reading, the art of writing, of computing. To these should be added the art of drawing, and all taught as a means, not an end. Singing should be constantly used to induce a happy and impressionable mood. Dr. Robertson explained the Montessori method of teaching writing, and told of its successful use in Canadian schools.

Mr. Harlan Smith's most interesting lecture on the "Archaeology of Canada" suffered from being crowded into a very late hour of the evening, but was listened to with enjoyment. The lecturer's suggestions as to the use of museums were valuable and well timed, and should bear fruit in the schools.

On Thursday evening the Convention heard with absorbed attention the presentation of the case of the feeble minded, and their claims upon the state, by Dr. Fernald. Teachers would have been glad to hear fuller details of the lecturer's own work for this unfortunate class, but he devoted most of his time, no doubt wisely, to impressing upon his hearers the danger and cost that the

feeble minded bring upon the community, and the grave importance of secluding them, and giving them such work and such pleasure as lies within their grasp. One touching comment upon the picture of a decent-looking woman remains in the memory, and drives home the meaning of the whole lecture. "This woman had broken jail several times, and was brought to us in charge of four warders. She now spends all her time in caring most tenderly and lovingly for our little helpless children."

In the discussion upon Standardization of Secondary Education, Teachers Licenses, and School Statistics, and Uniformity of School books throughout Canada, and the advantage of a possible Dominion Education Bureau, all opinions were agreed as to the gain that would accrue if these were adopted. Papers on these subjects were read by Prof. Howard Murray of Dalhousie University, and by Superintendent MacKay. The former speaker showed that there is already a tendency towards uniform text books, in that some of the books selected and authorized by the Ontario Board of Education have been adopted in other provinces. A good point was made when one of the speakers urged the increased feeling of unity if school children all over Canada were trained in the same ideas and sentiments. The discussion on this subject, by Superintendent Campbell of Prince Edward Island, and Mr. S. A. Starratt, was cut all too short for want of time.

Whether the undergraduate college course should take three or four years engaged the attention of the presidents of Acadia, Dalhousie, St. Francis Xavier and the University of New Brunswick. The opinion seemed to be strongly in favour of the longer course, mainly because of the advantage of the increased maturity of the student. "In three years you may cram a boy with four years work, but you cannot give his mind four years' growth." Superintendent Carter made a very strong plea for the shorter course on economic grounds. Dr. H. S. Bridges thought that the question might be settled by the expedient of Senior Matriculation.

Dr. McDougall and Dr. Blackadder of Halifax, and Dr. Walker of Truro, gave practical addresses on Medical Inspection of Schools. The Cadet Movement was dealt with by Mr. Elliott, Secretary of the Canadian Defence League, and Mr. A. Stirling Macfarlane. A paper on the "Single Tax," written by Mrs. E. M. Murray, was read by Miss