

N. B. Educational Institute.

The fourteenth session of the Teacher's Institute of New Brunswick was held in the Normal School at Fredericton, beginning on the afternoon of June 28th, and ending on Friday afternoon, June 30th. Chief Supt. Dr. J. R. Inch presided at all the sessions of the general meeting. The attendance was large, consisting of 232 enrolled members, embracing representatives from all sections of the province.

After opening and enrolment, Jas. M. Palmer, A. M., was elected Secretary and Miss M. K. Tibbits, A. B., assistant, Mr. Geo. A. Inch, B. Sc., chairman of the committee on grading, appointed at the last Institute, read an elaborate report, giving the views of the committee, recommending that the duty of grading devolve upon the teachers of the several departments by supplying the principal with lists marked qualified and unqualified, as the merits of the pupils deserve. The pupils could then be examined by the teacher of the grade in advance, the principal deciding in cases of difference. In the case of the higher grades the teachers would submit their estimates to the secretary or superintendent for his decision. Promotion should be made where possible each term, instead of annually, in the standards below the high school. The report was discussed by Messrs. Montgomery, Hay, Barry, McFarlane, Foster, Inch, March, and the Chief Superintendent.

The public meeting in the evening was addressed by Mayor Beckwith and Hon. A. F. Randolph, chairman of the board of school trustees, who gave the visitors a cordial welcome to Fredericton. Chief Supt. Inch discussed in a broad and scholarly tone "Some of the Tendencies of Modern Education." Lieutenant Governor Sir S. L. Tilley in a wise and practical address made a plea that girls should be instructed in the elements of housekeeping, that an agricultural education should be provided for the farmer's sons of the province, and in the warmest terms paid a tribute to the teachers whose consistent christian lives preach daily sermons to their pupils; Rev. Dr. Brecken in a stirring address spoke of the necessity of training boys and girls for patriotic Canadian men and women; Dr. Harrison, Chancellor of the University, in further discussing some of the tendencies of modern education claimed additional scope for natural and experimental physics, laboratory and field work, and the use of the mathematical instruments, the efficiency of manual training, the bread of classical culture instead of the stone of grammatical drill, the study of English literature, French and German, the elective system of study, university extension, the admission of women to the university, the widening of the scope of practical knowledge and the recognition of its pre-eminence above intellectual power. An excellent musical programme was carried out.

At Wednesday's session, Philip Cox, A. B., B. Sc., of the St. John Grammar School, read an excellent paper entitled "Do Existing Methods of Teaching as Applied in our Schools Develop as they Should the Ability of Pupils to Think?" At the afternoon session, J. F. Rogers, Principal of the Model School, Fredericton, considered "The Necessity of Unity in Teaching Arithmetic," in a carefully prepared

address. Both papers were very fully discussed by members of the Institute.

The report of the committee on grading was referred back to the original committee, with Messrs. March, Steeves, and Henderson, — to report subsequently.

The following were elected as members of the Executive Committee; Messrs. Brittain, Hay, Cox, Foster, Parlee, March, Sutherland, Oulton, Misses Gilmore and Tibbits.

The trustees of schools, teachers and citizens of Fredericton arranged for a moonlight excursion on the St. John. The trip was on the Steamer David Weston, to Sheffield and return, and was a charming one in every respect.

At Thursday's session Messrs. Hay, Oulton, Brittain and Mrs. Dieuaide called the attention of the Institute to the approaching session of the Summer School of Science at Sackville. A resolution was passed, on motion of Inspector Carter, seconded by W. S. Parlee, asking the legislature to so amend the present regulation that any member of the Institute may be elected to the senate of the University of New Brunswick. Mr. J. M. Palmer was unanimously elected as representative to the senate of the N. B. University.

A portion of the morning session of Thursday was divided into two sections, (a) Kindergarten and Primary Schools and (b) Superior and Grammar Schools. In the former, presided over by Inspector Bridges, papers were read by Miss S. Jennie Harvie, of Fredericton, on "Reading in Primary Schools," and on "The Place of the Kindergarten in Education," by Mrs. Susan S. Harriman, of Halifax. In the latter section, presided over by Mr. W. T. Day, papers were read by P. G. MacFarlane, A. B., St. Stephen, on "The Place of Classics in the School Curriculum," and by Miss Eliza McNaughton, A. B., on "The Study of English Literature." The papers were very favorably received and discussed by members of the sections.

At the general meeting in the afternoon the text book committee made the following report: Your committee appointed at the last annual session for the purposes of considering and reporting on the subject of text books, beg leave to offer the following preliminary report, setting forth the results of their investigation and postponing for the work of another committee, if it be your pleasure, the further consideration of the very important subject with which you have entrusted them. First, in regard to the mathematical text your committee recommend the following:

- 1st. That Kirkland and Scott's elementary arithmetic be prescribed instead of the present text.
- 2nd. That Smith's elementary algebra be authorized in addition to our present text.
- 3rd. That Gage & Co's standard book-keeping be prescribed instead of the present text.

Secondly, in regard to the classical text-books your committee make the following recommendations:

- 1st. That Robertson and Carruther's primary Latin book be prescribed instead of the present text.
- 2nd. That selections from Virgil, books I., II., III. and VI., published by John Collier, Sons & Co., for the Scottish School Book association, be prescribed instead of the present text.

- 4th. That White and Walpole's texts in Xenophon and Homer be prescribed.