

tional work of those provinces. Such a convention would bring together the teachers of the Dominion for the exchange of ideas and comparing notes on the different systems of education: it would widen the current of thought and enlarge the mental horizon of our educationists; it would give an opportunity to those teachers of eastern Canada who have sought their fortunes in the far west to pay a visit to their old homes; finally, it would be in line with the other meetings named above and give an opportunity to those who wished to do so to attend, at a moderate expense, all three meetings.

Let the beginning of the last decade of the 19th century be signalized by breaking down some of those barriers which have so long kept our teachers sectional and, therefore, narrow.

The following letter from Mr. Ray Greene Huling will be read with interest. Mr. Huling attended the Inter-provincial convention in St. John in 1888, and many entertain very pleasant recollections of his visit, not only on personal grounds but as the representative of the influential educational association of which he is now the president:

I am sure that all who participated in the delightful Inter-provincial Convention of 1888 will be glad to welcome the suggestion, now in the air, of a Canadian Educational Convention in 1891. And if that assembly should convene at Montreal, the National Educational Association at Saratoga, and the American Institute of Instruction in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, as is possible, what a veritable feast of good things the summer of 1891 will have in store for the lovers of educational progress in North America! It will need but a wise selection of specific dates, and liberal terms on the part of railroads and hotels, to give all three meetings a large and enthusiastic attendance from both sides of the line. For one, I shall take great pleasure in promoting within New England a hearty interest in the proposed gathering from all Canada. Nothing less would be a suitable return for the many kindnesses received by me in the Maritime Provinces three years ago.

Let me now say a word about the American Institute of Instruction. You know we claim that it is the oldest association of teachers with a continuous history in the world. Its first meeting, in the summer of 1830, was a remarkable gathering at Boston of more than three hundred friends of education from eleven different States, from Maine to South Carolina. Every summer since has seen a similar assembly for three or four days discussing themes of supreme interest at the time to the immense advantage of education in the States. Over four hundred speakers, some of them the ablest thinkers on education in the land, have given their best efforts to the institute, and naturally the influence of his organization has been widely pervasive and efficacious for good. Leaders in education and in society have been glad to serve it as officers and lecturers, and each rising generation of teachers offers loyalty to this mother of educational associations, with her crown of three score years. It

is a peripatetic body, going hither and yon over all New England, with an occasional journey into New York, and thus it has scattered its beneficent influences through every nook and corner of the New England States, whence with the migrations of the restless Yankee they have spread to the South, to the West, and even to the Pacific slope. Ever since the formation of the National Educational Association, with its splendid gatherings of thousands, the older body has lost nothing of the love of the teachers within the former area of its meetings. The larger meetings of the larger association, perhaps, by a well known arithmetic, divide less of profit to the individual listener than the more familiar gatherings of the American Institute, in which heart draws very close to heart, and the experience of the older teachers comes into most helpful contact with the enthusiasm of the younger. "The meetings of the Institute are the best of the year" is a very frequent comment among observing teachers.

The attendance at the meetings has varied within the last dozen years from 500 to 2,300, which can only by comparison be deemed small. There is usually a rivalry among places seeking the coming of the meeting, and many kind attentions are shown by the residents. Reductions in railroad fares and in hotel rates are freely made; thus the long journey and the stay of three or four days are brought within the means of teachers with limited salaries. At the meetings themselves, the mornings and evenings are devoted to the discussion of educational subjects, while the afternoons are left free for rest and recreation. Membership, which costs but a dollar a year, opens the way to all the reductions of fares and other privileges of the meeting.

It is impossible to state just now when and where the next meeting will occur, as those matters will be definitely determined at a directors' meeting in January; but custom in recent years practically fixes July 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th as the dates for the meeting of 1891. As to place, there is a sentiment in favor of some point in the White Mountains, and it is certain that it will be within easy reach of Montreal and Saratoga. Wherever it shall be, I can promise the presence of some of the ablest speakers in New England and, besides, I am not without hopes of drawing a few from your own preserves across the border.

Let me extend, through you, to the teachers and friends of education in the Atlantic Provinces and all Canada a hearty invitation to visit us next summer and enjoy to the full the pleasures of a meeting with the American Institute of Instruction. Cordially yours,

RAY GREENE HULING.

New Bedford, Mass., August 18, 1890.

FRENCH ACADIAN CONVENTION.

From the excellent reports in *L'Evangeline*, we are able to cull a few items of specially interesting educational import in the action of the great French Acadian Convention, held on the 13th, 14th and 15th of August at Church Point, Digby County, Nova Scotia. Over 2,500 were in attendance, representing the provinces of Canada specially; but having representatives also from Quebec and the United States.