

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Gloucester County Teachers' Institute met at Bathurst, December 17th. There were forty teachers in attendance. At the first session addresses were made by Rev. Messrs. Thompson and Harrison and Inspector Mersereau. A paper on "Lesson Recitation" was read by Miss M. Alexander, which was followed by a discussion. The discussion on school libraries was opened by Mr. Hetherington.

A paper on "Mistakes in Teaching" was read at the second session by Mr. B. D. Branscombe. The discussion was opened by Miss Plant. Miss Stout then gave a primary lesson to a class of pupils. This was followed by a discussion.

At the third session an excellent paper, "Thoughts on School Government," was read by Inspector Mersereau. The discussion on this paper was entered into by Messrs. Boudreau, Branscombe, and others. A paper on "Discipline" was read by Mr. W. L. Allain.

At the fourth session a paper on "Color" was read by Miss Isabella McDonald, followed by one on "Composition and Letter Writing" by Mr. J. F. Doucet.

A resolution in favor of superannuation was unanimously adopted. Mr. Veniot, M. P. P., who was present, promised his support in the movement. A resolution of condolence to the widow of the late Gov. Fraser was ordered to be drawn up. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: B. D. Branscombe, President; Miss Gertrude Doucet, Vice-president; L. R. Hetherington, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Ida A. Mersereau and J. F. Doucet, members of executive. The Institute next year will be held at Caraquet.

YORK COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The York County Teachers' Institute met in the hall of the Normal school, Fredericton, December 17th. The attendance of teachers was very large, and the Institute was a very profitable one. At the first session enrolment took place, and excellent addresses were given by the President, A. S. MacFarlane, and Inspector Bridges. At the Thursday afternoon session a paper on "Writing" was read by Mr. W. A. Nelson. The discussion was taken part in by Mr. McKay, Miss Duffy and Inspector Bridges. Mr. H. C. Henderson then read a paper on "Child Study." Principal Mullin endorsed the paper.

At the Friday morning session the following officers were elected: President, W. L. McDiarmid; Vice-president, Miss E. Thompson; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss E. L. Thorne; Executive Committee, Mr. H. C. Henderson, Miss Clara Bridges, Mr. J. F. Owens and Mr. J. F. Porter, Keswick Ridge. Mr. H. H. Stewart

then read a paper on "Reading," which was followed by a lesson on the same subject by Miss J. R. Everitt. Lessons in reading were also given by Miss E. Thompson and Mr. J. F. Rogers. Messrs. John Brittain, Geo. Inch and A. S. McFarlane took part in the discussion.

At the closing session a paper on "Geography Teaching" was read by Mr. W. A. McDiarmid. The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Brittain, McKay, Henderson, Creed and Foster. After the usual votes of thanks the meeting adjourned.

The committee appointed by the York Teachers' Institute to prepare a resolution expressing the opinion of the Institute in regard to the use of tobacco by minors, reported, and the following is the resolution of the committee unanimously adopted by the Institute:

"Whereas, the practice of tobacco and cigarette smoking with their attendant evils appears to be increasing;

Therefore resolved, That the members of this Institute feel that they owe it to the profession to discountenance and oppose it in every possible way;

And further resolved, That this Institute believes that the laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors should be enforced.

W. T. DAY,

M. ANNIE HARVEY,

HERBERT C. CREED.

How Shall the Child be Taught.

At present the time devoted to the three R's alone, in the mechanical schools, is in the neighborhood of 70 per cent. It might be possible, however, through a process of exclusion, such as I have indicated, to reduce this time by 50 per cent. or more. Indeed, so great may be the change brought about, that what is now regarded as the body of the work of the elementary school would constitute only a side issue. If this should be true, then, of course the possibilities of enriching the course of study would be almost unlimited.

Society expects, for example, that the individual shall be able to write a letter, in well-constructed sentences and without grammatical errors. It is not concerned, however, as to whether or not the writer is able to analyze the sentences, or to parse the words in his letter. If facts should prove, beyond question, that individuals who can parse and analyze with facility are able to construct better sentences than those who are unfamiliar with technical grammar, this subject might rightly be placed among the essentials of school work. If, however, it should be proved that the English employed by those who had not studied technical grammar was practically as good as that employed by those who had had a thorough grounding in it, then this subject could not be regarded as essential, but would belong to the domain