

Hon. Mr. Loranger, member of the Council of Public Instruction, being invited by the President of the Association to address the meeting, did so in his usual happy style, drawing a vivid picture of the great benefits which public instruction had conferred upon the country.

On motion of Mr. Boudrias, seconded by Mr. Dostaler, Mr. U. E. Archambault was appointed a Delegate to the next conference of the Teachers' Association in connection with the Laval Normal School at Quebec.

After some explanations Mr. Boudrias moved, seconded by Mr. L. A. Auger, that a committee be appointed to devise means for securing a more general attendance of teachers at the conferences of the Association. The motion having been agreed to, the committee was organized as follows: Rev. Principal Verreau, and Messrs. U. E. Archambault, L. A. Auger, D. Boudrias, F. X. Desplaines, G. T. Dostaler, M. Emond, F. X. Héty, P. H. St. Hilaire, and J. Paradis; with power to add to their number.

It was then unanimously resolved on motion of Mr. U. E. Archambault, seconded by Mr. J. A. Auger, that the thanks of this meeting are due to the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, and Hon. T. J. J. Loranger for their kind assistance at the meeting, and especially for the advice and the encouragement they had given the Association.

The following subject will be discussed at next meeting.—“What is the best system for teaching? Is it the individual, monitorial, mutual, or simultaneous, and should these different systems be used independently or combined?”

Reports of School Inspectors, for 1859 and 1860.

Inspector BÉCHARD's Report for 1860.

(Continued from our December number.)

Mr. Béchard says in his second Report that he was happy to notice some progress in the Gaspé District of Inspection during the year 1860, and that a new era seemed to have dawned for education in that distant part of the country, as the following summary of the results will show:—Several schools were opened during the year; several new localities were erected into school municipalities; a much larger number of children attended the schools; greater sums were paid by the ratepayers; the assessment, formerly so unpopular, was levied in seven municipalities; more eligible candidates for the office of secretary-treasurer were appointed in certain places, where an improvement in this respect was much needed, and security was given by a number of these functionaries; uncertified teachers, illiterate and not unimpeachable in their morals, were superseded by the appointment of others more competent and worthy of recommendation. Such in substance was the progress made during the year,—a progress that will be more apparent when compared with results obtained in preceding years.

There were 12 municipalities in this District of Inspection in 1859: this number increased to 17 in 1860,—with 18 teachers, male and female, against 11 in 1859. Of these 6 had diplomas—2 for Model Schools and 4 Elementary. In 1859, the number of children attending school was 156 only, it had increased, in 1860, to 731—difference in favor of latter period, 575. In the branches taught, there was also a marked progress; and the improvement in the finances of the municipalities was still greater. Against \$1134.73, contributed in 1859 by the ratepayers, the amount, in 1860, was \$1495.97—increase \$361.24. There were just grounds

for anticipating a further augmentation under this head in 1861, as the collection of assessments would be made in several municipalities with less difficulty and probably without any legal prosecutions.

The difficulties mentioned in the last Report as retarding the advance of education during previous years, still operated in the same manner, although many obstacles had since been overcome. A serious drawback, commented upon in that Report, was the want of uniformity in the books used in the schools; but happily this will soon be remedied, as the Council of Public Instruction has prescribed the text-books which shall be exclusively used in public schools; before the Report was published Mr. B. had already been informed by an official communication from the Superintendent of Education that measures had been adopted by the Council for securing a series of uniform Readers adapted to the wants of the country—a course which he thinks will be attended with the most beneficial results.

The opposition to the assessment was not so strong as it had been twelve months before, although it was still manifested in some municipalities with continued energy. All impediments would however soon disappear; in a few years the inhabitants of Gaspé would be able to appreciate the importance of education; the school, which had hitherto been wanting, was the only means by which they might hope to attain the position which they should occupy among their fellow-countrymen. The following municipalities are noticed separately in the Report:—

1. *Newport*.—This locality, formerly a part of Pabos, was constituted a school municipality last autumn; it had but one district and one school. This school had been taught successfully by Mr. Léandre Dagneault, of St. Michel, who was provided with a diploma, and under whose management the pupils had made rapid progress. This teacher had retired some weeks before the Inspector's last visit, and Mr. Adolphe Magnan, a pupil-teacher of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Béchard had every reason to believe that Mr. M. would successfully continue the work so well commenced by the former teacher. School affairs had suffered from the want of a good understanding between the Commissioners of this municipality; but since the late elections things had been better managed under the control of the Chairman, Mr. Philippe Hamon, who was actuated by a proper spirit. The inhabitants, with few exceptions, paid the rates most willingly, and though they were poor, would tax themselves to the utmost rather than forego the benefits conferred by the school. It was expected that they would soon be in a position to raise the necessary means to build a school-house. The school had hitherto been kept in a house rented for the purpose.

2. *Pabos*.—There were two schools in this municipality, one in each district; that situated at Grand Pabos, and which had been conducted by Mr. Joseph Barrette, was kept by Mr. Joseph Foucault, a pupil of the Jacques-Cartier Normal School, holding an Elementary diploma. [He obtained a Model School diploma a few months after Mr. B.'s Report had been made.]

This teacher, under whose management the school had been placed in a very satisfactory position, was active in the discharge of his duties, and teaching was a vocation for which he was very well fitted; his behaviour was exemplary, and he was in every respect an honor to the Institution that had trained him. The other school, situated at Little Pabos, was kept by Mr. Louis Ruel, of St. Gervais, who had a few months since obtained an Elementary diploma. This school was greatly inferior to the last.

The Commissioners of Pabos were well disposed, and their secretary-treasurer, Mr. Thomas Rémon, discharged the duties of his office with all the ability and punctuality that could be desired. The collection of the assessment which had been formerly attend-