

### THE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF N. S.

This association has always good meetings. That of August, 1903, was a memorable one, and so was the meeting of 1904, just closed. It was more than a teachers' parliament. Trustees of schools, college professors, teachers of academies and common schools, all united to discuss, for three days, the various phases of educational work.

Truro, the place of meeting, was beautiful in its summer foliage. The abundant rain which preceded the day of meeting was followed by fine weather. Many were the tributes paid to the enterprise of the town, its beautiful park and lawns, and to the cordial welcome given the delegates by its citizens.

It is difficult to give within the compass of a page any account of the meeting that would be proportionate to the value of the papers read and the discussions. The programme was an excellent one, and bore evidence of the industry and energy of Supervisor McKay, the secretary.

"If the school sections will not rise to the needs of the hour," said the president, Supt. Dr. MacKay, in his opening address on Present Day Problems, "then their powers should be taken from them and given to larger and more progressive bodies." Improvement of educational conditions is impossible without a more generous outlay on the part of rate-payers. The salaries of teachers should be fixed at a rate that the section can afford, and the best of applicants be obtained. Referring to the great initial cost of conveying pupils to and from the consolidated school at Middleton, he said the drivers get better pay than most of the teachers. He thought it was a mistake to carry children to school who lived at a distance from it of two miles and less, and who would be the better of a walk twice a day.

Inspector H. H. MacIntosh, reporting from a special committee on school support, gave some interesting figures paid by taxpayers for school purposes in different counties of the province. In some places these were so small that the poll tax was sufficient for educational purposes.

Rev. Dr. A. McDonald, of Antigonish college, gave a scholarly and practical paper on the proper use of Shall and Will. President Ian C. Hannah, of King's College, spoke on University Extension in England, a movement with which he was closely associated in England. In this and other addresses that he made before the association, Dr. Hannah was listened to with marked attention. He is always instructive, because he seldom speaks without preparation, is never trite, and has something to say of immediate interest to his hearers.

Professor D. A. Murray's paper on Technical Education and Manual Training was admirable and convincing. His plea that business men and educationists should unite their forces to equip and keep young men of ability in this country should not pass unheeded.

The public educational meeting was addressed by Principal Soloan, President McDonald, of Antigonish, President Trotter, of Acadia, Attorney-General Longley, and President Forrest of Dalhousie. The audience listened with attention, and frequently applauded the speakers.

One session was taken up chiefly with addresses and discussions, in which trustees and commissioners of schools took part. There were excellent addresses, in which some good points were made. G. W. Kyte, Esq., of St. Peters, C. B., thought that the small school section should be done away with and none less than four miles square should be recognized. C. P. Bissett, M. D., St. Peters, speaking of small salaries, said he knew of some families of about eight persons in the province supported on less than \$150. Mr. P. Innes, of Kings County, estimated that there was an annual loss to the province of \$400,000 from irregular and non-attendance. The average attendance in rural districts was not more than 35 or 40 per cent of the enrolment. A strict compulsory law would remedy this.

Mr. John Brittain, director of the Macdonald rural schools of New Brunswick, illustrated a brief but excellent address on Nature-study by experiments.

An address by R. R. McLeod, on Religion and its Relation to our Public Schools, called forth strong expressions of dissent from Rev. Dr. Trotter, Rev. Dr. Thompson and Rev. President Forrest.

Addresses on Our Industrial Resources were given by Mr. Alex. McNeil and Mr. B. W. Chipman. The study of these resources in our schools would, in the opinion of Mr. McNeil, be a great incentive toward industrial progress.

A conversazione was held on the evening of the second day in the spacious new academy hall. Dr. Calkin presided. A feature of the evening was the address on Psychology in Schools by Very Reverend Dr. Pace, of Washington University. Speeches, music, refreshments and conversation filled in a very pleasant evening. In an adjoining room the high school and college men wrestled amicably in a "round table talk" over their mutual relations and the preparatory courses of study.

On the third day papers were read on physical training, military drill and the education of the criminal. Recommendations were made for the preparation of a scheme for pensioning teachers, and another for the improvement of the conditions of teachers.

The following gentlemen were elected to form the executive committee: Mr. Kennedy, Halifax; Mr. McKittrick, Lunenburg; Mr. Kempton, Yarmouth; Mr. Morton, Digby; Mr. Robinson, Kentville; Prof. A. G. Macdonald, Antigonish; Mr. Stewart, Sydney; Mr. Smith, Port Hood; Mr. McLellan, Pictou; and Mr. Craig, Amherst.

Before adjournment, Miss Emma Ellis, a former successful teacher in Nova Scotia, who has spent two years in South Africa, made a very interesting address to the assembled teachers.