

CLIPPINGS FROM REPORTS OF INSPECTORS.

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4.—PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR TEACHERS.

Inspector McLoughlin.—Teachers' Meetings were held in each of the counties in this district during the first week in June, 1884. At each of these meetings Rev. Mr. Rexford was present, and gave addresses on subjects connected with the teacher's work. The addresses and discussions at these meetings are productive of much good, both in the way of instructing teachers as to the best methods, and of inciting them to study methods for themselves and to prepare to teach the several subjects more efficiently. The attendance at these meetings was very fair, but not as large as it should have been, considering the advantages that may be derived from them.

The Normal Institute held at Dunham during the month of July, by Dr. Robins, of the McGill Normal School, and Rev. Mr. Rexford, Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction, was quite successful, having been attended by about seventy teachers, with an average attendance of about fifty.

The lectures were very interesting and instructive, and the teachers present expressed themselves as well paid for the time and trouble of attending and ready to attend another when the opportunity is offered.

Attendance upon such institutes from year to year will do much towards making up for the lack of professional training.

Inspector McGregor.—I anticipate grand results from the practical working of the Teachers' Institute, and trust that some portion of my district will participate in the benefit next year.

Inspector Miller.—Several means have been suggested for doing away, at the very outset, with defective methods of teaching. The most effective, beyond doubt, would be the establishment of a Roman Catholic Normal school for girls in the district of Montreal.

It would perhaps be possible to replace it by establishing a special school for the purpose of giving a thorough practical and theoretical instruction in the art of teaching to young girls already in possession of a certificate from the Boards of Examiners. These boards, as at present constituted, can only give a certificate of competency; the proposed school would give a certificate showing that the person holding it has been specially trained to perform the important duties of a teacher.

Another means which is less efficacious, but much more economical, would be to institute annual conferences of teachers in each school municipality.

Mr Nantel makes the following suggestion, with regard to this subject in his first report:

"Could not the government grant a small subsidy to the inspectors, so that they might, from time to time, give lessons in the ar-