

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1905.

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THE KINDERGARTEN WORK

Meeting Will be Held Tomorrow to Discuss With City Govern-
ment and Board of Education—Dr. J. L. Hughes' Address
in High School Building Last Evening Was Able Exposi-
tion of Kindergarten Principles.

As one result of a meeting last evening here in the interests of kindergartens, there will be a meeting tomorrow afternoon with Dr. J. L. Hughes and members of the city government, the board of education, and in fact all interested in the work, in attendance.

The gathering of last night was in the High School building and the audience was by no means a large one. There was considerable regret expressed because of the unavoidable absence of Dr. Inch, chief superintendent of education, and other members of the board.

Those who were privileged to be present, however, heard an address that for its directness and expert knowledge of kindergarten affairs has probably never been equaled in this city.

Dr. Hughes is the superintendent of education in Toronto, and for fully thirty years he has given particular study to the development and education of the young. Mayor White presided with him on the platform were Rev. Gustave Kuhling, Dr. J. W. Daniel, M. P., and Dr. G. U. Hay.

The chairman briefly reviewed the commencement and growth of the kindergarten in St. John and called on Mrs. H. H. Pickett to submit her report in connection with free kindergartens.

Dr. Hughes was very warmly received. He expressed his gratitude for such a kind reception. He noted that the kindergarten work being carried on in St. John was solely under the direction of women. He felt that men should also interest themselves, for through united effort greater results could be obtained.

He had always been a supporter of the belief for women and could not see why so great a gulf should be fixed between the sexes. He had had his attention drawn to the difficulty a female lawyer was having in gaining permission to practice in New Brunswick. He said he believed she should be permitted to practice, for there could be no intelligent reason why she should be debarred.

Passing on to matters more directly concerned with his presence in the city, Dr. Hughes pointed out the importance of having not only women but men interested themselves in the healthy physical and mental development of children.

The parents had no right to avoid their responsibilities and the harmonious unity of father and mother was essential in properly training daughter and son.

Kindergarten was a profound philosophy. Half a century ago it was forbidden in Germany because it taught human liberty, but since the system has been introduced throughout the empire, for the people had come to believe that divinity is in the common people and something not solely confined to the clergy.

From Germany the system spread to England and the United States, where its permanent establishment has long been secured.

Conservative Boston had awakened to the value and interest of making kindergarten an organic part of the province's school system. It had even been translated to South America, and the speaker was credited to know that a young lady of St. John had for years been identified with the schools in Chile. He pointed to Miss Stockton, daughter of Dr. A. A. Stockton, M. P.

Kindergarten was a fundamental basis of education. Every child, when it first commenced to manifest itself, exhibited three central tendencies. To do, to know, and to love. The deepest love of the child nature. Another compelling tendency was the love of doing something in co-operation with others. These three elements, when they were intelligently nourished, the child would grow toward the divine.

By doing one grew. Culture was an excellent quality, but every time it was given at the expense of power such as the three elements made, the child was weakened.

The kindergarten principle means a place where the child can grow, where the budding faculties can have free and unrestricted expansion, and where its creative powers might kindle, and one this was accomplished God could do the rest.

The old idea of storing a child's mind with theories was being abandoned. There was a change from storing to power. Instead of pouring in, there was a pouring out. There was a change from receptivity to self activity. The importance of encouraging and stimulating the imagination was now being seen. The new idea was to do good through the children instead of to them. The initiative idea was being forsaken for the creative side. The original power, the individuality were the greatest things in the child.

The boy who was passive and who never caused his teacher any difficulty was the best boy in the school according to old ideas, but the best boy of the present time was the active and, perhaps, troublesome child. The old idea was to coerce and restrict, thereby making it impossible for the boy or girl to show any originality. They were crushed.

Another fallacy was beating the student. Such a form of brutality, the speaker was thankful to be able to say, was rapidly becoming a thing of the past. By thrashing a bad boy could never be made into a good boy.

Thirty years ago it was thought the only way necessary to make a scholar out of a youth was to give him certain information. Then presently pictures and maps were hung on the school room walls, and this was a step in the right direction, but it was not a step far enough. Then articles were made, so that the students could watch the process of construction, which was a most commendable advance.

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young ladies back to consciousness. They are much improved now, and will soon be about as usual.

T. Kilpatrick, superintendent of the mountain division of the C. P. R., spent Wednesday in town and left yesterday afternoon for P. E. Island on a visit to his wife's relatives. Mr. Kilpatrick has been connected with the Pacific division since the opening of the road.

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