

Rural Science School at Truro.

The sessions of the Rural Science School, held at the Normal and Agricultural Colleges, beginning July 9th, were completed on Friday, August 9th. This School is provided by the government for the purpose of affording the teachers of the Province an opportunity to study the various sciences, such as botany, entomology, chemistry, etc., so that they can teach the rudiments of these subjects in the common schools.

Whatever view may have been held in the past, it is now pretty generally accepted that the schools of Nova Scotia can prove much more effective in interesting the pupils in farming and horticulture and other industrial lines, than they have. The difficulty is to provide a class of teachers who know enough about plants and insects and soils, these things that pertain to the industries, and to teach something of them. A special year's course, similar to that required for pedagogic training at the Normal College, might supply the need. But few teachers could afford this. Neither will a fragmentary one year's course, beneficial as it might be, provide as thorough a training as is required. The only solution seems to be a vacation school, which provides a curriculum of studies similar to that offered by any other school or college that may hold its sessions throughout the year, and this is the place which the Rural Science School at Truro fills.

The Directors of this School, who compose the faculties of the Agricultural and Normal Colleges, have laid down a course of studies in the sciences, and when teachers have satisfactorily completed this course, they are awarded a Rural Science Diploma. The teacher who holds this diploma and who puts this teaching into practice, satisfactory to the school inspector, will be recognized by a substantial extra grant from the government.

Such a course cannot be completed in one year. A teacher, previously trained in the sciences, might complete it in two. But the average teacher requires three years. However, when the teacher has completed the course, he will have a grasp of the natural sciences, of value in themselves and also of value because it will make possible the teaching of these practical subjects in the schools.

While the full government grant to the holder of a Rural Science Diploma is not given until the course is completed, the government does recognize

the work done from year to year. Provided a teacher satisfactorily completes one year's course at this Rural Science School and teaches effectively along this line during the next term in his school, he is entitled to an extra government grant of \$15.00. Such a teacher holds a "Temporary Diploma" of the Rural Science School.

In addition to the above recognition, the government shows its interest in this work by paying the travelling expenses of those teachers who attend the School.

Not all who attend the School aim to obtain a diploma. Some take the opportunity of studying one or more of the sciences for their own sake, independent of any prospective financial reward. This year, however, three completed the course and twenty-eight completed either the first or second year of the prescribed course. In accordance with this, Rural Science Diplomas were awarded at the conclusion of the course this year to the following three students:

Kathleen Knickle, Lunenburg.

Mabel C. Moseley, Dartmouth.

Georgie Stevens, Truro.

And "Temporary Diplomas" were awarded the following twenty-eight students:

Adelaide E. Baltzer, Middleton, Annapolis Co.

Leah A. Borden, Lower Canard, Kings Co.

Gladys K. Daniels, Paradise, Annapolis Co.

Joseph P. Doucet, Little Brook, Digby Co.

E. Irene Fulton, Sydney, C. B.

Mary A. Hamilton, Lockport, Shelburne Co.

Ethel M. Hiltz, Dartmouth, N. S.

Gladys Harris, Sydney, C. B.

A. Edwin Hyson, East River, Lunenburg Co.

Elsie C. Lantz, Cambridge, Hants Co.

Helena M. Lantz, Cambridge, Hants Co.

Winnifred M. G. Lavers, E. Southampton, Cumb. Co.

Annie J. Lockhart, Newville, Cumberland Co.

Annie C. Luscombe, Westville, Pictou Co.

Edith G. Marsh, Central Economy, Colchester Co.

Morris O. Maxner, Lunenburg, N. S.

Beatrice F. Morton, New Germany, Lunenburg Co.

Albert E. McCormick, Granville Centre.

Hannah McIvor, Indian Brook, Victoria Co.

Ella McKay, Piedmont Pictou Co.

Margaret McKenzie, Dartmouth, N. S.

Kate E. McNally, Pugwash, Cumberland Co.

Elsie M. McNutt, Lower Truro, Colchester Co.

Ellen A. O'Regan, Lakelands, Cumberland Co.

Dora M. Quinn, Brown's Brook, Cumberland Co.

Vivien Salter, Diligent River, Cumberland Co.

Bertha A. Wright, Upper Brookside, Colchester Co.

Earl Whyte, Truro, Colchester Co.