

Owing to the illness of the President W. D. McIntyre, Esq., Vice-President Chas. W. Kielly, Esq., presided at the several sessions of the Convention.

After the appointment of committees and routine business John McSwain, Principal of Queen Square School, Charlottetown, addressed the Convention on the subject of "Nature Studies." In his address Mr. McSwain urged the teaching of the natural sciences as a means of cultivating the pupil's powers of observation, and aid to his other studies; he also urged the teachers to prosecute this study, as a source of satisfaction to themselves.

In the evening a public meeting was held, addressed by Rev. Dr. Morrison, P. J. Trainor, Esq., His Honor Lieut.-Governor Howlan, and D. J. McLeod, Esq., Chief Supt. of Education. Dr. Morrison's subject was the "Necessity of Training the Will," in which he pointed out the difference between *Will* and *Intellect*, showing the possibility of a well-trained intellect being co-existent with an undisciplined will. He attributed many of life's failures to the opposition of the will to the conclusions of the intellect. The speaker urged the teachers to seek to develop will power as well as to secure the intellectual advancement of their pupils.

P. J. Trainor, Esq., urged upon his fellow-teachers the necessity of educating their pupils in the principles of true manhood and womanhood. Governor Howlan spoke a word of encouragement to the assembled teachers, and hoped that the time was not far distant when the remuneration of teachers would be greater than at present. Chief Supt. McLeod spoke of the advances being made in education in the province.

The Committee on Constitution reported recommending that the constitution be so changed that the control of the Association be secured to the teachers. Report adopted, and the Executive were instructed to procure incorporation for the Association, also to procure, if possible, representation for the Association on the Board of Education.

Thos. Callen, Esq., Vice-Principal of Queen Square School, Charlottetown, read a very excellent paper on "English." After the discussion of which the meeting adjourned.

Resolutions expressive of regret for the loss the Institute suffered by the deaths of late Inspector Balderston and Mr. T. Heath Haviland, also of sympathy with their bereaved relatives, were passed and ordered to be forwarded to their families.

A resolution recommending the Board of Education to change the hours of opening and closing school in the country districts to 9.30 o'clock a.m. for opening and 3.30 o'clock p.m. for closing for the entire school year, was passed.

Vice-President Kielly then opened a discussion on "The Course of Study," advocating that the course be amended so as to make better provision than at present for that large class of pupils who are not preparing for college, but leave school for the farm and workshop.

After the election of the following officers, and passing the usual votes of thanks the Convention was closed.

Officers: President, J. M. Duncan, Charlottetown; First Vice-President, Edwin Brown, York; Second Vice-President, Thos. Crafer, Alberton; Third Vice-President, Donald McKinnon, Montague; Secretary, Treasurer, J. D. Seaman, Charlottetown; Corresponding Secretary, Matilda McDonald, Georgetown; Executive Committee: D. F. Murphy, Red House; P. J. Trainor, Emerald; Kenneth McPherson, North River; Hannah Beattie, Summerside; Bessie L. Gregor, Charlottetown.

Out-Doors with the Birds.

The more varied the nature of the country the greater number of species you may expect to find inhabiting it. An ideal locality would be a bit of tree dotted meadow with a reed bordered pond or stream, surrounded by woods, rolling uplands, and orchards. Common sense will tell you how to act in the field. Birds are generally shy creatures and must be approached with caution. You must not, therefore, go observing or collecting dressed in flaming red, but in some inconspicuous garb and as quietly as a cat. Furthermore, go alone and keep the sun at your back—two apparently unrelated but equally important bits of advice.

The collector generally has the instincts of a hunter, and practice will develop them. The "squeak" is one of his most valuable aids. It is made by placing the lips to the back of the hand or finger and kissing vigorously. The sound produced bears some resemblance to the cries of a wounded young bird. In the nesting season its utterance frequently creates much excitement in the bird world, and at all times it is useful as a means of drawing bush or reed-haunting species from their retreats. One may enter an apparently deserted thicket, and, after a few minute's squeaking, find himself surrounded by an anxious or curious group of its feathered inhabitants.

The observer of birds will find that by far the best way to study their habits is to take a sheltered seat in some favored locality and become a part of the background. Your passage through the woods is generally attended by sufficient noise to warn birds of your coming long before you see them. They are then suspicious and ill at ease. But secrete yourself near some spot loved by birds, and it may be your privilege to learn the secrets of the forest. *From the Study of Birds Out-of-Doors, by Frank M. Chapman, in the Popular Science Monthly for September.*