

INWOOD TEACHERS' CONVENTION

Citizenship and Service, was the theme of the Convention at Inwood, on Thursday, November 27th. This town is the natural centre for a large new Canadian District along the Fisher Branch Railway; and ministering as they do to a polyglot population of struggling pioneers, the schools of this district have their own peculiar problems to solve.

Though the severe weather, and difficult roads, made a large attendance impossible, the energy, interest, and enthusiasm of the delegates left nothing to be desired. The co-operation of the local school authorities and citizens, made the gathering a far-reaching social success, and awakened an interest among many non-English trustees, who have seldom had the opportunity to have the cause of Good Schools presented to them in this way, under such pleasant auspices.

The convention was opened by G. W. Bartlett, Inspector of Schools for the District, who, after briefly referring to the peculiar difficulties confronting the teachers of Fisher Branch Territory, invited them to "get together" in an old-fashioned "experience meeting," and help each other by discussing and exchanging these experiences. To better promote this purpose, a question drawer was established and the questions dealt with in a series of interesting and practical conferences.

Miss Archibald, of Clematis, was appointed temporary chairman, and Miss Wood, of Inwood, temporary secretary. The question of School Morals and Manners was radically and practically considered to the great satisfaction of all members, nearly everybody having some experience to contribute to the consideration or solution of the problem.

Arithmetic and number-work were thoroughly discussed as to culture value, mental discipline and practical use—"the why" of mental arithmetic from each point of view; and when and how faults in written solutions of problems, should be dealt with. How the subject may be vitalized was also prac-

tically discussed. Mr. Bartlett then announced and explained a number of new departmental regulations and plans for extension work; and advised the teachers to keep out of the rut by having the ambition to raise their standing in the profession by reading and study; so that when the improvement in professional status came, as we hope it soon may come, the experienced teacher may not be crowded out of the best positions by the competition of new-comers with better academic qualification.

In the afternoon session, Miss Nixon, of Carlsborg, S.D. Inwood, gave an inspiring, yet practical, paper on "The Rural School—It's Place in the Community," explaining how it may be made a centre of the social and intellectual life of the community and give a tone and quality to this community life, which has a reflex action upon the school, to their mutual betterment. To this end the school program must be related with, and draw its material from the vital interests of the people of the community; and the school must be interested in all movements which are of interest and service to the community.

Miss Speechley, of the Agricultural College Extension Department, conducted a conference on Boys' and Girls' Clubs, explaining the aims and organization, the difficulties of 1919 and how met, and the plans for 1920. She further explained local matters and answered questions and compared experiences with visiting teachers.

In a short business meeting, the organization was voted permanent, and the following officers elected: President, Miss Wood, Cosette School, Inwood; Vice-President, Mr. McInnis, Fisher Branch; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Milan, Booth S. D., Narcisse.

In the evening a very successful public meeting was held in Cosette Hall, which, thanks to the interest and assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Cosette, was an unqualified success. A number of visiting trustees, all of non-English origin, were present, some driving for many miles to attend. Fourteen nationalities were represented, including all Europe