

## 2. Election of Executive Committee.

8TH SESSION.—THURSDAY EVENING.—Paper on the question "What provision might be made for Technical Education in the Province" by W. S. Carter, M.A., Inspector of Schools, St. John.

Arrangements have been made for discussions to follow the reading of the several papers. The names of the leading speakers will be published later. There will be opportunity for the introduction of business at several of the sessions. The usual travelling arrangements will be made.

HERBERT C. CREED,  
Secretary.

THE *British American Citizen* newspaper offers seven prizes for competition among people now resident in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, as follows:

\$10.00 for the best Essay on any of the following subjects:

1. Nova Scotia's mineral resources as an investment for capital.
2. The Maritime Provinces and their possibilities for farming and fruit growing.
3. The development of the fisheries of the Provinces, and their worth as an investment.
4. The early settlers of the Provinces, from New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

\$5.00 for the best Essay on either:

1. The botany of the Maritime Provinces.
2. The salt water and fresh water fishes.
3. The common birds and their habits.

All must be in before May 1st. *British American Citizen*, 7 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass.

## PERSONAL NOTES.

Inspector Mersereau is visiting the graded schools of Newcastle and Chatham this month.

Inspector Carter is examining the schools of the city of St. John this month.

Miss Mary J. Copp, and Minnie A. Copp, twin sisters, are teaching in adjoining districts, Coverdale, Albert County, N. B.

James E. Creighton, B.A. (Dalhousie, 1887), who won a fellowship at Cornell University last fall, has been appointed Instructor in Philosophy in the same university. Mr. Creighton is a Pictovian, and was a Munro exhibitioner in the University of Dalhousie, from which he graduated with first-class honors in mental and moral philosophy.

Mr. A. W. Macrae, St. John, has been successful in passing the intermediate examination for the de-

gree of Bachelor of Laws, in London University, England. Mr. Macrae, who is a graduate of Dalhousie College, N. S., is the first Canadian to pass examination without studying in an English university.

The Providence (Rhode Island) *Journal*, of a recent date, refers to an interesting paper on "The Rhode Island Emigration to Nova Scotia," by Prof. Ray Greene Huling, who visited Hants County a few months ago for the purpose of historical research. This paper, after introductory remarks, deals particularly with the settlement of the townships of Falmouth, Newport, and Sackville (N. B.), by Rhode Island loyalists in 1760. Prof. Huling showed that these emigrants had played an important part in building up the fortunes of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

## QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

## Questions and Answers.

The excellent monthly, THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, published at St. John, is doing good work in the publication of star tables, and in awakening interest in astronomical knowledge generally. Is not, however, "the first point of Aries" mentioned as coincident with the vernal equinox, now a merely technical expression? Sayre tells us that this coincidence began in the year 2450 B. C. We believe "Precession" carries the real equinoctial point backward one sign in 2151 years. Consequently it would, we suppose, have retrograded to the sign Pisces nearly 300 years before the Christian era, which accounted for the prevalence of the fish on Christian tombs in the catacombs of Rome. If this be correct, the sun's place at the vernal equinox would now be in Aquarius, as it was in Taurus before 2450 B. C., which accounted for bull worship among the Chaldeans and Egyptians. Will the St. John EDUCATIONAL REVIEW tell us whether or no we are right.—*The Critic* (Halifax).

The intelligent and patriotic tone of our contemporary has always inspired us with the best feelings towards it; yet it shows us no mercy. However, the questions mooted are fair, and we shall attempt them.

1. The "first point of Aries" is a real point in the ecliptic—where it is crossed by the equinoctial line. The centre of the sun was exactly over that point last month, March 20th, at 5h. 48m. 8s. in the morning, 60th meridian time. Suppose that point on this occasion to be marked by a star. The sun moves eastwardly from this point with a daily motion of from 57 to 61 seconds of arc, according to the earth's position in its orbit. In the sidereal year of 365d. 6h. 9m. 9.6s. the sun's centre would be again over our initial star. But the first point of Aries would not be there. During the year the equinoctial line was slowly moving westwardly, so that the sun would have to cross it about 50.1 seconds of arc on an