

manner verbs were conjugated a knowledge of the *radicals* was always necessary; and that the formation of the *primitive tenses* was the most advantageous. He proposed the following method, which met with the approval of the meeting.

Before conjugating the verbs in writing it was necessary:

1. To know by heart the auxiliaries *avoir* and *être*, and the model verbs of the four conjugations;

2. To distinguish the *radical* from the *termination* in those conjugations;

3. To know the *primitive tenses* and the manner of forming the tenses derived from them.

And to acquire the practice of conjugating the verbs in writing it was necessary:

1. To give at the beginning of each tense, the *primitive tense* from which it was formed; also, in a concise way, the manner of forming it;

2. To separate in all tenses the *radical* from the *termination*, in order to learn how to distinguish between them.

The following questions were submitted for discussion at next meeting:

1. *What is the best method of making a logical analysis?*

2. *What is the best method of teaching history?*

Seven of the members present inscribed their names, pledging themselves to take a part in the discussion of the above question, or prepare essays on some scientific or historical subjects for the ensuing conference.

Moved by Mr. C. Dion, second by Mr. J. B. Dugal, and

Resolved,—That a vote of thanks be tendered to the out-going office-bearers for the able and satisfactory manner in which their respective duties had been fulfilled.

The conference was then adjourned to the last Saturday in January next.

Extracts from the Reports of Inspectors of Schools, for 1859 and 1860.

Mr. TANGUAY'S Reports.—(Concluded.)

11. *St. André*.—This parish had 7 schools, of which 1 was very well conducted and 5 tolerably so, although the teachers (all young ladies) did not possess that firmness and experience that command respect and confidence; the remaining school was very indifferently managed. The school corporation discharged its duties with zeal, and, upon the whole, the law was carried out in a satisfactory manner. Accounts and record of proceedings were carefully attended to, and the finances were in a prosperous condition.

12. *St. Alexandre*.—Of the 7 schools in this municipality 5 were very indifferently managed, and poorly attended; but the two others had shown good results. The utmost indifference about school affairs and education in general was manifested in two of the districts. Children were kept away from school on the most trivial pretence, or sent unprovided with the articles most necessary to a scholar. The people of these districts neglected no opportunity of manifesting their opposition to the school system; while the commissioners had on the other hand increased the number of schools beyond their means of support, and in consequence were unable to pay the young female teachers more than \$50, receiving in exchange services of a corresponding value. As might be expected, results were not found very satisfactory; and to add to the evil the assessed were not prompt in their payments.

The accounts had been recently entrusted to a competent person, who, it was hoped, would place the finances in a better condition, although the corporation was not in a position to pay off all its indebtedness by the end of the year.

13. *Notre Dame du Portage*.—Of the 4 schools in operation here, 2 were tolerably good and 2 quite indifferent, if not entirely useless. As the commissioners and rate-payers were well disposed it was their intention to replace incompetent teachers by persons better able to discharge the responsible duties involved, and as the local organization was good, every thing might yet be well. Accounts were well kept, and we are pleased to add, the income exceeded the expenditure.

14. *St. Patrice, Rivière du Loup*.—Six schools were in operation during the half-year, 3 of which made some progress, while the others, owing to irregular attendance, showed indifferent results. One of these schools was frequented by only 5 or 6 pupils, in consequence of some caballing among a number of rate-payers, who were dissatisfied because, for the greater advantage of the

majority, a district had been subdivided into two, and the school removed a short distance. Thus, as it has often happened, an act of simple justice furnished a pretext for a factious opposition; and these dissensions are invariably followed by bad results. The want of success in the two other schools, was due to the want of encouragement on the part of the parents; for the teachers had both the disposition and ability to perform the service in an efficient manner. The old debts of the municipality were paid up, and its finances were in a satisfactory condition. The secretary-treasurer fulfilled his duties in an able manner and with the utmost punctuality; and we may repeat that indifference and perhaps the want of school-houses were the only causes which operated to the serious prejudice of education in this municipality. The corporation was actuated by the best motives; and, altogether, it was safe to predict that school matters would soon assume a healthy and prosperous development.

15. *St. Edouard*.—This municipality had but two schools, one a model-school which did not answer expectations, and the other a girls' superior school, managed with satisfactory results by the two Misses Chassé. The success of these young teachers dates from the very first year of their service. The commissioners were not insensible to the importance of the issue involved, and the inspector found them very well disposed. The secretary-treasurer discharged his duties with alacrity and exactness, thus effectually promoting the interests of education in this place.

16. *St. George de Cacouna*.—There were 7 schools here, 6 of which (kept by competent female teachers) might have shown better results had the pupils attended more assiduously. The other school was situated in a rather thinly peopled locality that for some years had been deprived of schools, and for local causes, required a greater number than the means at the disposal of the commissioners allowed them to establish. This school was not a very good one. The convent school was in a flourishing condition and was conducted with much skill. The education given here is that which is most suited to the majority of its pupils. The object was to form them for the respective spheres in society which they, in the order of things, would probably occupy in after years, and to train them so as to enable them to use the knowledge they possessed to their advantage and satisfaction. The branches taught were those of a good practical education. The accounts of the secretary-treasurer were regularly kept, and he discharged the duties of his office creditably.

17. *St. Arsène*.—This municipality possessed 5 schools, tolerably well conducted and well attended. The generality of the rate-payers were prompt in their payments; and education received much attention in this place. Proceedings were carefully recorded, the books well kept, and the finances in a healthy condition.

18. *St. Modeste*.—Two schools in operation, conducted in a satisfactory manner by female teachers who were provided with diplomas. There were 70 pupils in attendance during the last half-year. Progress, though not very remarkable, might be called good. Through the very laudable energy of the chairman of the local Board, school dues were punctually paid in. The books of the secretary-treasurer were ably kept, and the proceedings recorded with regularity. A handsome schoolhouse had been acquired, and efforts were being made to purchase another for the school of district No. Two.

19. *Isle Verte*.—The 7 elementary schools of this municipality were not very well attended, nor managed as successfully as they should have been, but there was an academy, which was maintained on an excellent footing, affording instruction to 145 pupils. This institution alone contributed more to the diffusion of education than the 7 small Common Schools together, and at less cost. The apathetic disposition observable in most of the rate-payers with regard to the education of their children, was very discouraging. The assessed were slow in remitting the rates, and paid with reluctance. Of the 410 scholars on the rolls, there were hardly 250 who attended, and even in this number were included the 145 in regular attendance at the academy; thus leaving 15 only as the average number attending the respective elementary schools. Although the secretary-treasurer did all that could be expected of him, he could with difficulty collect a sum sufficient to liquidate the teachers' claims. Mr. Tanguay expresses himself quite satisfied with the academy, but he does not see much matter for congratulation in the affairs of the other schools of this municipality. The female teachers were, however, for the most part, competent, and applied themselves with earnest attention to the service,—all but one were in possession of diplomas.