

THE DISPATCH.

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., DECEMBER 25, 1895.

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TEACHERS OF CARLETON COUNTY IN SESSION.

AN INTERESTING AND PROFITABLE CONVENTION.

Papers Read on Timely Subjects, and Thoroughly Debated and Discussed—Conversation.—Election of officers for the Ensuing Year.

The Carleton Co. Teachers Institute opened in Cole's Hall on Thursday morning last. Then was a large attendance some 75 being present. Mr. Meagher, inspector of schools, presided. After considerable preliminary business a paper on "History in the Public Schools," was read by Mr. Henry Harvey Stuart.

Mr. Stuart's paper was carefully prepared and thought out. He pointed out the particular use of the study of history, in forming the character of the pupils, and urged that the study of the history of the countries in which the children were the coming citizens, should inspire patriotism. A good point, was that in which he spoke of the advisability of leading up from the study of school and parish government to the larger affair of national politics.

Inspector Meagher agreed almost wholly with the ideas of teaching history as given in the paper read. He emphasized the delicacy required to deal with the history of religious troubles. He spoke strongly in support of what was read on patriotism.

Mr. Peppers agreed that the teaching of geography should accompany or precede that of history. Current events should be studied by the pupil. We cannot teach our children to be too loyal to their country. If our teaching were as patriotic as that of the United States, the exodus from Canada might be smaller.

Messrs. Kinney and MacLean spoke of the utility of charts and diagrams in teaching history. The latter strongly recommended Mr. Stuart's plan of teaching the science of government viz., first that of the village, then of the parish, next of the county, province, dominion, and lastly that of the empire.

Rev. Mr. Macdonald had not heard the paper read, but agreed in the main with the comments.

Next came Mr. Edwin E. Kinney's paper on "Composition." It was well written, showing deep and careful thought on the part of the writer. He discussed his subject from all points, and traced the course of study from the first grade up in a masterly way. The aim of such instruction was to enable the pupil to write good English. He explained his method of dealing with narration, description, exposition and debate; and recommended the reading of the works of Addison, Irving and DeQuincy. A literary society in school was a good thing. Success in teaching lies as much in the teacher's zeal as in his methods.

At this stage, addresses were given by Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Hale, representing the W. C. T. U.

T. V. Hunter opened discussion on Mr. Kinney's paper, saying that Canadian children must be masters of composition, if Canada would be Britain's leading colony. He fully agreed with Mr. Kinney's methods. Here the discussion was postponed till next day.

This paper was followed by a vigorous and prolonged discussion, in which Messrs. G. H. Harrison, F. A. Good, Inspector Meagher, H. F. Peppers, E. E. Kinney, Chas. McLean and Rev. J. H. McDonald took part. All agreed that the paper was an excellent and practical one.

Mr. Harrison opened the discussion, emphasizing the importance of sacred history, and the study of current events, and the science of government. Patriotism should be encouraged by the teacher to the fullest extent. Canada should stand first.

Mr. Good agreed that the newspaper should be used much in school. Loyalty to Canada should be inculcated. But we were very apt to misrepresent our enemies. He sympathized with the American revolutionists and denounced Britain's part in the "opium" war.

In the evening a very pleasant conversation was held, the hall being filled with teachers, and their friends of the town and surrounding localities. The following programme was carried out: Selection, orchestra; address, Mayor Saunders; duet, Misses Hay; piano solo, Miss Pauline Winslow; reading, Miss Hudson, (encore) piccolo solo, Mr. Frank Jones; duet, Misses Sanderson; solo, Miss Maggie Ross; address, T. C. L. Ketchum; banjo duet, Miss Baird and Mr. Frank Jones; duet, Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood. Mr. Meagher presided during the entertain-

ment. At the conclusion of the programme refreshments were passed around, and a very pleasant time was enjoyed by all who were present. The affair closed with the singing of the national anthem.

On Friday morning the opening paper was on "Reading" by Mrs. Gilmor. In teaching the first grade she made use of objects to excite attention. She taught words before the sounds which made up the words. The teacher should stand at some distance from the reading class, so as to judge correctly their manner of reading. In this point, she was very strongly supported by the Inspector. At first, said the reader of the paper, children's eyes and ears are more active than their intelligence, hence the value of object teaching.

This paper called forth a lively discussion in which Miss E. L. Gill, Miss MacLeod, Miss Comben, Messrs. Meagher Stuart, Peppers, Crawford and Kinney, and Mrs. H. L. Ross took part. Miss Gill was opposed to the pupil spelling over words at home. Mr. Stuart claimed that pupils should be taught the sentence first, then the words, then the sounds, names and forms of the letters. His views were supported by Mrs. Ross, and opposed by Messrs. Peppers and Kinney. The latter urged thorough drilling on words.

Miss Jennie Cadwallader read a short but very interesting paper on Nature Study. She advocated field excursions to study minerals and plants, and to obtain a correct view of geography. All studies in Nature must be by means of specimens within reach of the pupil.

This paper was discussed by the Inspector, and Messrs. Peppers, Stuart, Tracey and Kinney. The Inspector and Mr. Peppers spoke of the lack of observation often noticeable in pupils. Mr. Tracey's remarks showed him to be a careful observer.

In the afternoon, Mr. Kinney explained how he raised money to establish school libraries in Montana. He worked the entertainment idea with great success. He was an enthusiast in the matter of having literary societies in schools. He then gave an illustrated address on how to teach writing. He did not believe in vertical writing at all. Neither did he like the round hand of the authorized texts nor the opposite sharp style. His own choice lay between the latter two. He showed that there were only three elements in writing—the straight line, the curved line made upwards, and the same downwards. He admired Hogarth's "line of beauty," the compound curve, which he used freely. He showed how he taught writing to primary pupils by actually teaching a class of boys and girls before the audience.

Next came the election of officers, resulted as follows: Allan A. Rideout, president; Miss Kate McLeod, V. P.; Frank A. Good, secretary; C. H. Gray and Miss Minnie Carman additional members of the executive.

Votes of thanks were tendered those who had prepared papers, to the managing committee, the W. C. T. U., and to those who entertained the visiting teachers at the conversation of Thursday night.

The usual fee of \$5.00 was voted the secretary.

After close of business the meeting adjourned.

Death of Daniel Lee.
The death of Mr. Daniel Lee was not unexpected, but when the sad news became public it caused real sorrow and regret on all hands. Mr. Lee was a Woodstock boy, and during the many years that he did business in this town he won the affection and approval of everyone who had business with him. His death occurred about noon on Thursday last. He had been ill for some time past, with pulmonary trouble. Daniel Lee was the second son of the late John Lee. The surviving members of the family are, Edward, Chas. and William, brothers, and one sister Mrs. Michael Gillespie. The deceased married Miss Mary Cluff, a niece of Richard Cluff, who, with one child a boy three years old survives. The deceased was one of a family cast upon their own resources when mere children, by the death of their father. He took up his share of the burden faithfully. For some 13 years past he was in the livery stable business, at one time running it, in connection with the Exchange hotel, and later on taking the stand he occupied, until shortly before his death. Only a few days before the end came, he sold out to his brothers Charles and William, and made such disposition of his property, as the sad circumstance required. The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon a service being held at St. Gertrude's church. The large attendance of citizens testified to the esteem in which the deceased was held. The pall bearers were, James H. Willbur, Wallace Hay, J. H. Doherty and Joseph Fezer.

Manitoba Elections.
The Manitoba Legislature is dissolved. Elections will be held January 15.

GET READY TO VOTE FOR TOWN RULERS.

THE ELECTION WILL BE ON THE 13TH DAY OF JANUARY.

New Act in Force Reducing the Council, and Doing Away With the Ward System.—Secret Ballot to be the Order.—A Contest for the Mayoralty.

Amid the excitement over the Christmas and New Year celebrations it will not do for the electors of Woodstock to forget that the duty of electing a new mayor and board of councillors will shortly devolve upon them.

A new act relating to civic matters went into force on the 15th of this month. The main provisions are that a mayor and six councillors shall be elected from the town at large. The ward system has been done away with. Perhaps it would be a stretch of the truth to say that ward politics has also passed away. That will probably last as long as the sun and moon endureth.

Nominations for mayor and councillors must be filed with the town clerk before the end of the second day in January. The election will be held on the 13th day of the same month, which is the second Monday in the year. The voting will be done at two polling places. Ballots are to be printed with the name of every candidate for mayor or councillors. The returning officer, only, will hold the ballots. One voter at a time will be allowed in the room when the polling takes place, saving the returning officer and his assistant and the agents of the candidates. Two electors must sign the nomination paper of each candidate and a witness must swear by his signature to this having taken place. The candidate must make a declaration of qualification;—he must be assessed upon property, real or personal or both in the assessment list valued at \$400; must have his taxes paid, be a British subject and be twenty-one years of age.

It is said that a question has been raised as to the status of the present council, the new act as it was pointed out, coming in force on the 15th of this month. Provided there were a chance for a technical objection based on this fact, the feeling of all our citizens is so patriotic, and the desire to advance the welfare of the town so general, that no advantage is likely to be taken of such a technicality. However it may not be amiss to point out, that the old act provides that the mayor continue in office, until a new one is sworn in, and that each old council goes out of office on the second Monday in January of each year. The intention of the new act—and when a case of this kind comes up, the intention is always a strong point—was to assist the town in the conduct of its affairs, and not to clash with an prior or existing act. The idea in having the act to come in force on the 15th of December was in order to give candidates an opportunity to file nomination papers within the time required by the act; otherwise the act could not have come in force until the 2nd day in January.

Few of the present councillors will be in the field this coming election, if reports generally heard be true. Coun. R. B. Jones says he will face the music again. Couns. Carr, Nicholson, Bailey and Gallagher have told the DISPATCH that they will not run. There is to be a contest for the mayoralty, as Mr. J. R. Murphy has put on the gloves for a knock out contest with his worship.

The affairs of the town of Woodstock want keen attention for many years to come. It is a crying pity that our citizens do not realize their responsibility to a sufficient extent. They take no interest in the elections and then grumble at the make up of the council. A most excellent plan would be to have citizens' meetings. Instead of having incompetent men forcing themselves on the public, men fitted for the position of councillor should be solicited to come out by requisition. What we want is a good mayor supported by six first-class business men to handle our affairs for the next year. Perhaps in the past we have been too anxious about the morals of our city fathers, and too careless of their business capacity. It's business men we want, and must have, if the town is to be well governed.

An Admiral's View.
Among the many people interviewed as to the possibility of war between England and the United States was Rear Admiral Braine, of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He said: "I cannot understand the warlike sentiment which has sprung up in this country in the past year. Everybody seems anxious to have a fight of some sort. It is a regular fever, an epidemic. Have people forgotten what war means? It is thirty years since the last war, and the country has not recovered from the blow yet."