

INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS

For the week beginning May 6th and closing the 10th.

The Institute was called to order at 10:30 A. M., by Supt. W. S. Henry, who made a few appropriate introductory remarks. Prof. C. L. Wooster and Miss Barnum, of the Mayville Normal school faculty, the Institute conductors, gave the teachers a kindly greeting. Miss Barnum occupied the first period, the subject being Primary Reading and Language Work.

She made emphatic the aim sought in both teacher and pupil, viz: To be in the true spirit and not have either teacher or pupil work mechanically. The teacher to aim to be artist; to put themselves into the work. That harmony or discord is made by work upon the soul of the child, and that the teacher can largely enlarge the power for harmony or for discord.

The child's nature in the past and the present is the same. He loves to express himself. He has a keen and vivid imagination. The teachers are to reach the feelings and the heart of the child.

Each child has a nature of its own. Different natures call for tact and judgment and resource upon the part of the teacher.

The teacher must come down to the child and to his standard. To teach a child he must be a child in spirit. He must put himself in the child's place. The teacher is a character builder.

Conform method to child and not the child to the method. Aim how to make life mean more to the child. Character can be taught through Geography, Arithmetic etc.—through all thought stimulating avenues.

So many things present themselves to the teacher for use that the question arises "What shall I leave unused?" rather than "What shall I use?" Suitable work for children was illustrated on the blackboard, to be further enlarged upon later.

Arithmetic next received attention from Prof. Wooster. "Why can we not master some portions of Arithmetic?" as some teachers ask, the Prof. said he would explain in time.

A basis for work was outlined upon the board and dwelt upon.

The talk upon points of educational interest by the State Supt. of Public Instruction, Miss Bates, at the Town Hall, Tuesday evening, was surely enjoyed by all present. We shall endeavor to touch upon some of the points given.

There are 60,000 pupils now in N. D., needing all the instruction possible. What do they need to be taught? One thing should be a higher citizenship. Why? Because our population is made up of people from various governments. Some take license for liberty. They should understand better the duties of a true citizen.

In the U. S. there are about fifteen and half millions of pupils between five and eighteen years of age in school. Yet 31 per cent of all the pupils are out of school. This is not as it should be. Among criminals 8 are from the illiterate class to 1 from the cultured class, proving conclusively that education will help to reduce criminality.

What do we want to do in our educational affairs? Teach more that is practical? Yes. Have the girls learn to sew at school and also to cook. Have the boys learn carpenter work, etc. Have the child learn early to compute, not the old way, to learn all of addition, then go to a new world—subtraction—then on to the next, etc., and, perhaps stand on the floor because he can not "learn" the multiplication table? No, we are getting better civilized and more practical. Instead of learning bones we learn "what to eat," "How to take care of our selves" etc.

Are the teachers all perfectly satisfied with their work? Raise the grade of the teacher. If you are a 3rd Grade do not be content till you are a 2nd Grade, if you are a 2nd Grade do not be satisfied until you are a 1st and when a 1st work, work on or you will go back down the roof at a break-neck speed. There is no standing still. Progress or die. There is plenty of room at the top.

What do we need in regard to school houses? Hard wood floors. Soft wood is easily made into floating particles to carry germs of disease. Walls should be tinted; should be painted so as to be washed. The black-board and erasers well cleaned. The law now requires a flag to be displayed daily in the school room. Pictures of great men—not of statesmen alone but of artists, inventors etc., as well, should be placed in the school-room. Ornament the room and make it cheerful—not have it like a barn. Plant trees about the school-house, but first get the ground in shape. It should first be plowed up.

The Supt. called for a show of hands of those teachers present whose school had a well on the school grounds. Very few responded. But the contrary vote brought up an army of hands.

The last thought was, what shall the teacher be? Of course the people as a rule, thought she must be the pink of perfection. That she must take pupils whose heredity or environments or both had planted all manner of discordant elements in their character and turn them out full fledged angels. Yet the teacher, being the next greater power above the parent in character building, should patiently strive to bring out the harmonious development of body, soul and spirit of those under her charge.

Many other thoughts were brought out in the talk, but all tending to show that Miss Bates fully merits the honor conferred upon her by the Electorate of North Dakota, by electing her to the responsible position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

MONDAY, P. M.

Prof. Wooster, handled the subject of Primary History, the first period. He used the story form as the base to interest children. Rough maps on the black boards were used and teachers advised to do the same,

The Primary Geography work was nicely illustrated by Miss Barnum. The sphere, square, etc., were used. Let the child see what they can do with them, what they can find out with them, compare, observe. What object they can draw on the slate of similar shape, etc. Civil Government, by Prof. Wooster. The township, civil and congressional, were quite thoroughly discussed. The caucus was dwelt upon at length, and the fact made emphatic that it is the caucus that should receive the utmost attention of the voters and not be left to wire puller etc.

TUESDAY.

Supt. of Public Instruction, Miss Bates, was present through the day, doing much to make the day's work successful.

The same subjects, treated Monday, were continued to-day and in the same order. Quite a number of visitors were present.

In Primary Arithmetic, Miss Barnum, spoke of the aimlessness, lack of plan of teachers, often. We don't start from the right stand point. The child's experiences are very limited. We over rate the child's ability, a fact made emphatic. Yet we should never do for a child what he can discover for himself. You rob him of his reward. You can lead the child on. An out line for a week's work in 2, 3, 4 and 5 was given. Finding $\frac{1}{2}$ etc., were illustrated.

Little plans to teach sounds of letters and making words etc., were illustrated upon the board.

Interesting work in history was presented by Prof. Wooster. The Subject was made alive. The "Why" of different things were inquired; as why did the interest in the new world discoveries die out so soon.

Miss Bates gave a practical talk to the teachers. She spoke of material in school—things a teacher could invent.

In regard to educational legislation she made it emphatic that the teachers must speak out and make themselves felt. If they wish free-text books in their district they should work for it. They must create public opinion. Other important points were dwelt upon.

WEDNESDAY.

Speaking generally the work was along the same line as for the two previous days. How to make Physiology interesting was illustrated by Prof. Wooster, in dissecting a heart and by drawings on the board.

Miss Barnum gave an ideal development reading lesson, making drawings to represent Squaw, Indian, papoose, wigwam, bow, arrow, pony, etc. Even after a child would be interested in finding out something about Indians. Lieut Gov. Worst, was present during the afternoon and spoke briefly to the teachers. He also assisted in unraveling some knotty points in civil government.

THURSDAY.

The attendance has been excellent—about 50 each day.

The same subjects were continued. Some excellent work in numbers was presented by Miss Barnum. It was thought work, in small numbers and fractions.

Among the many excellent points brought out by Prof. Wooster we mention one especially. This was the bad effect of talking of battles and war.—The child should be lead to see the injury done by war. Dog fights, bull fights, prize fights create a desire for such things in those who see or talk about them.

The wrong use of punctuation was illustrated thus: "A man going to sea, his wife asked the prayers of his congregation." But the misplacing of the comma made it read: "A man going to sea his wife, asked the prayers of his congregation."

The work of the day closed with the exhibition of an active volcano that was extinct. If you wish to know how to do it ask a certain A. B. Co., agent.

FRIDAY.

General work—Talk by some of the directors. Arbor day exercises, etc. closed a successful week's work. Space forbids further details.

The following is a list of the teachers in attendance at the Institute:

Serena Anderson,	Portland.
Josephine Driscoll,	Sheldon.
Frank T. Redmond,	Page.
D. F. Miller,	Sherbrooke.
J. C. Miller,	Galesburg.
Frank E. Curry,	Hope.
Guy Jackson,	Hope.
Lena Lee,	Portland.
Hilda Jevne,	Hatton.
Mary O. Howe,	Hope.
Randy Lee,	Portland.
Jessie Drake,	Sherbrooke.
Nettie Goldrick,	Clifford.
Evelyn Baldwin,	Hope.
Aita Gilmors,	Hope.
S. J. Axdahl,	Cooperstown.
Olaus A. Ulland,	Golden Lake.
Otto E. Torkelson,	Hatton.
John Burris,	Hatton.
C. J. Connel,	Pickert.
H. S. Chilgren,	Mardell.
Burd H. Finney,	Hope.
Violetta Aasved,	Hope.
Lorenz King,	Hope.
Mary Huseby,	Hatton.
Carnelia Burdick,	Hope.
G. O. Facher,	Hatton.
Halvor Leet,	Hatton.
Isaac Syme,	Hatton.
M. C. Whitney,	Hope.
Beata Mark,	Hatton.
Agnes Connell,	Pickert.
E. J. Hughes,	Clifford.
Albert Miller,	Sherbrooke.
Addie Long,	Pickert.
Mrs. Eliza Henry,	Sherbrooke.
Ella Welch,	Sherbrooke.
Jennie Newell,	Hope.
Julia Ryder,	Portland.
Minnie Wakeman,	Colgate.
Mary Ryder,	Portland.
Sarah Eanslie,	Clifford.
M. J. Nelson,	Sheron.
G. J. Brandon,	Sheron.
Margaret E. Miller,	Sherbrooke.
Alice Beckley,	Colgate.
Anna Brimer,	Colgate.
Evelyn Gray,	Hope.
Idella Wilson,	Hope.
Katie Hughes,	Clifford.