

# THE REPORT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL TEACHERS' CONVENTION, 1897

By Mike Kostek, Archivist, EPS Archives and Museum

"The Edmonton District Teachers' Association held their first annual convention here on Friday and Saturday last the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> inst." So reported the "*Saskatchewan Herald*" in its October 4, 1897 issue. The news

report went on to state that the session was well attended by 28 teachers and their inspector, J.A. Calder. During the convention there were also present Rev's. Dyke, McQueen, Gordon and others.

The entire programme with a few changes as to time, was well presented. The following papers were read and, in the discussion which followed each, many of those present took part:

Common Mistakes in Teaching Arithmetic, E. Richardson.  
Primary Geography, J. E. Campbell,  
School Discipline, E. A. Chappell  
Literature and Supplementary Reading, Part II, Miss McMaster  
The Needs of Our Schools, Inspectors Calder  
Libraries for Rural Schools, A. Harley, B.A.  
Geography of Manitoba and the Territories, Inspector Calder.  
The Aim of Our Public Schools, K.W. Mackenzie, B.A.  
The Use of Picture Numbers, J.M. Moran  
Writing, Miss M. G. Carruthers  
History for Standards II and III, J. W. Dodds  
Seat Work for Intermediate Classes, G. J. Welbourne

The proceedings throughout were characterized by an interest greater than usual in like gatherings. The papers read were clear, terse and helpful and those of the teachers who took the opportunity given to be present could not fail to be greatly benefited. Much credit is due the managing committee for the practical elegance of the programme and the selections made of those who were to take part in the meeting. The discussions were participated in by several

of the most successful of the teachers and the interchange of ideas and experiences must have a good effect upon education in this district.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, D. S. MacKenzie, South Edmonton; Vice President, Miss Clark, South Edmonton; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss McMaster, Belmont.

The regular monthly meetings are to be resumed, and the next

meeting will be held in the South Edmonton school on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at two o'clock.

Before the close of the convention a resolution was unanimously passed asking the Northwest council to set apart, if possible, a sum of money for the aid of schools in establishing libraries.

The convention for the Red Deer district will be held at Red Deer on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> inst.