

changed to one-fiftieth of the average salary, and that period be used in all subsequent clauses. No. 10.—“From performing” be changed so as to include all accidents that might incapacitate a teacher, while in the service. No. 11.—Struck out “deceased of any person while engaged in teaching during the first ten years.” Inserted, “And that the widow of teacher should receive the same amount annually as the teacher would, should he become incapacitated.” No. 12.—In teaching, or of not more than two years’ attendance at the Normal School. All the other clauses were approved of.

A. B. GILBERT, Sec.-treasurer.

PERTH.—The meeting of the united associations of North and South Perth was held in the Town Hall, Stratford, on the 7th, 8th and 9th ult. The attendance was very large, and though the exercises were not numerous they comprised subjects of a very practical nature, which were taken up mainly by outside talent,—the valuable services being secured of Mr. J. M. Buchan, M.A., High School Inspector; Mr. W. Scott, B.A., Head Master, Toronto Model School; Mr. D. Boyle, H. M., Elora High School, and Miss Lewis, Elocutionist, Toronto. The proceedings commenced at 10 a. m., on the first day, under the able presidency of Mr. R. Munro, President of the North Perth Association, and the first matter introduced was the Teachers’ Retiring Fund, which was brought forward by Mr. A. S. McGregor. The basis he adopted was that urged by Mr. C. Ashdown in the columns of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL. After considerable discussion by Messrs. Rothwell, Ryan, Hamilton, Shaw and Brown, it was resolved to hand it over to the following committee to draft a scheme to be submitted at a subsequent session, namely:—Messrs. Rothwell (Chairman), Munro, McGregor, Hamilton, Hodgins, Shaw; Misses Oliver, Lennox, Walker, Dent and Mrs. Warburton. In the afternoon Mr. Boyle, read an interesting essay on Natural Science, which he had named “Our Poor Relations.” The object of the paper was to enlist the attention of teachers to the processes of evolution and revolution in nature so as to cultivate habits of observation in their pupils, which would tend to enlarge their minds, develop their thoughts and secure their sympathies for the lower animal world. In consequence of the Entrance Examination going on in the High School, Mr. S. Woods, M.A., whose paper was next on the programme, sent an apology for inability to attend and the convention then adjourned. At 7.30 p.m. a session was held specially to receive the report of the Superannuation Fund Committee, which was in effect that the fund be retained and payments be made compulsory on all grades of the profession: In moving the adoption of the report Mr. A. S. McGregor spoke with eloquent ability. He was opposed by Mr. Moir who moved that the payment be voluntary, on the ground that teachers who remain in the profession with the retiring allowance in view, are in their later years incapacitated to a certain extent and are willing to undercut others better qualified. Besides, those compelled to pay were actually supporting the retired ones in idleness, who, with care, might themselves have provided sufficient for old age; and improvident habits would obtain among those who expected an annuity in the future. These opinions were very ably combated by Mr. A. S. McGregor, who scouted the idea of a teacher with a family saving sufficient on present miserable salaries to make a provision for old age. He instanced a case where a second-class teacher was getting \$200 a year; and one man who intended to make the profession a stepping-stone to something else, went in for \$170 a year and board himself! The sum paid to the Government annually was small and would scarcely be felt, and in the end would be paid back with a certain amount out of the Government funds far in excess of the teacher’s payments. Mr. Rothwell looked upon the matter in the same light as an insurance scheme, and if it were established, as compulsory, teachers could not object to it, for when they enter the profession they do so knowing that such a payment is expected. Mr. Roberts thought if it were a voluntary system it would fall through. Mr. Hodgins, H.M., Stratford Model School, spoke to the same effect. He would support the motion. Mr. Alexander, P. S. Inspector, North Perth, gave the history of the inception of the fund, and thought that the welfare of the teacher in this matter was the first thought in the mind of the Chief Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Ryerson. The experience of 25 or 30 years in the profession added to a teacher’s value, and he had no need to undercut anyone. Those who intend to remain in the profession are in favour of the fund, those who use it only as a stepping-stone are not, and he did not think the latter should legislate for those who are spending their lives and energies in it. The first year’s annuity repays the teacher all the money he paid in, and the Government gave the rest, as a free gift almost. Mr. Moran, P. S. Inspector, South Perth, said that, though personally not in favour of the fund, he was of opinion that it was an advantage to the profession to have it, but if it were to be made a voluntary thing it would soon die out. If the school tax was voluntary, public schools would soon cease to exist; and he thought it right to tax those who made the profession a stepping-stone and thus keep such people out of it. Those who leave the ranks are not treated unjustly, they get back their money from the Government so that in any case it is not lost to those who pay. The 1st clause, namely, “that the fund be retained” was put and carried. Mr. Moir’s amendment, “that the payments be optional,” was then put and declared carried, after which the convention adjourned. *Second day.*—Mr. S.

Nethercott, President of South Perth Association occupied the chair. He introduced Mr. J. M. Buchan, H. S. I., who was cordially received. He took up the subject “English in Schools,” and after a review of the history and philology of the language, entered particularly into the method of teaching Reading, Spelling, Grammar, Composition and English Literature. During an interval in Mr. Buchan’s exercises, Mr. Boyle said in connection with his essay read the previous day, that at Elora High School there is a collection of natural objects made by himself assisted by the pupils and some neighbouring friends, which he invited the teachers present to see, when opportunity occurred. Mr. Munro proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Boyle for his services at the convention, which, being seconded by Mr. Laird, was passed with acclamation. In the afternoon, Miss Lewis, graduate of the Philadelphia National School of Elocution and Oratory, gave an exemplification of the art of teaching Elocution, putting the members through a course of exercises as a practical illustration; and from a series of selections gave some admirable renderings of conversational, rhetorical and dramatic pieces. She also introduced the phonic system of spelling. Miss Lewis’s language in describing the several phases of her subject was particularly well selected and to the point. The rounds of applause which greeted the conclusion of each exercise, and the strict attention manifested, indicated the deep interest the members took in the instruction. Mr. W. Scott, B. A., H. M., Toronto Model School, next gave, by special request, his address on “How to deal with Indolent Pupils.” He evidently did not believe in smartening them up with the birch or strap, as he felt more inclined to blame the teacher, the parents, or the boy’s associates, rather than the boy himself for indolence. Mr. Scott suggested many excellent plans for remedying this school plague: such as the teacher’s self-examination, reasoning with the parents, or the boy in private, separating him from doubtful company, etc., all of which he found from experience to be successful when judiciously practised. Mr. Eckert, Principal, London E. Schools, gave an excellent, illustrated address on “Writing,” as he taught it; and judging from the specimens of his skill, the subject could not have been in better hands. He advised teachers to aim at proficiency in this art, but when they were not able to write neat headlines they should use Beatty’s copy-books which he thought the most suitable and best adapted. Mr. Scott, in compliance with the wishes of the members took up the subject, “Object Lessons.” He said that teachers should have a definite aim in view in teaching each lesson. Object lessons should be taught for the following purposes: (1). Cultivating the senses; (2). Teaching the pupils to compare and infer; (3). Leading them to describe accurately what they observe, thus, making these lessons the medium of language lessons; (4). Imparting ideas of orderly methodical thinking. He then went on to show how to teach so as to secure these ends, and concluded by calling attention to the most common errors made in giving object lessons. Mr. Rothwell spoke in high terms of the important work done at the convention by Messrs. Scott and Eckert, and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to these gentlemen. Mr. Munro also spoke of their praise-worthy exertions and seconded the motion, which was passed with acclamation. In the evening a concert was given in the same building, which was attended by a crowded audience. Vocal selections were rendered in excellent style by the Stratford Quartette Club, consisting of Dr. Burkart and Dr. Ahrens, and Messrs. Trainor and Roberts; Solos by Miss Dillon and Miss Kelly, and duets by Misses Clench and Hutton, were received with marked appreciation by the audience, while Miss Allen, organist of the Roman Catholic Church, presided at the piano with her well-known skill and ability. The violin solos of Miss Nora Clench carried the house by storm; she was repeatedly encoored and always responded with the utmost good humour. Miss Lewis’s exercises on elocution at the Convention led the teachers to expect special pleasure from her portion of the programme, an anticipation which was in no way disappointed, for, after her sixth appearance during the evening, the audience found themselves in a frame of mind similar to that in which Oliver Twist once found himself—they “wanted more.” Saturday morning’s session was devoted to the discussion of “Canadian History, and how to teach it.” The subject was introduced in a masterly address by S. Woods, M.A., of Stratford High School, and was afterwards ably discussed by Messrs. Rothwell, Hodgins, Moran, Donaldson and others. Teachers were recommended to clothe the dry bones of Canadian History, as found in our authorized text books, in the living flesh and blood as presented in the works of Francis Parkman, to cultivate a taste for its study by the frequent recital of interesting or thrilling narrative, and to develop patriotic sentiments by recounting the devotion and achievements of the pioneers of Canada. The meeting was pronounced by those who attended it to be one of the most pleasant and profitable ever held in the County of Perth.

OTTAWA.—The Ottawa Teachers’ Association met on June 3rd and 4th. The president, Mr. J. McMillan, B.A., was in the chair. *First Day.*—Miss Shenick, Head Mistress of the Girls’ Model School, had her class in attendance, and taught a lesson on “Geometry.” Among other things, she insisted on (1) A thorough knowledge of the definitions, axioms &c., before proceeding to the propositions. To explain these to the class she made use of cubes, triangles, and compasses, with very good effect. (2) In dealing with the propositions, she would proceed on the