

Reading; Teaching of History; Kindergarten Methods in Primary Schools.

The Illinois State Teachers' Association met at Springfield the same week and undertook a great deal of practical work. The classical question was duly discussed, and Col. Parker gave an address on the "New Education" to a large and appreciative audience.

National aid in addition to State aid for educational purposes was urged in President Arthur's message to Congress, and the principle is evidently gaining favor. It has also been suggested that the Dominion Government should devote some of its surplus revenue to the encouragement of higher education.

ENQUIRIES.

Q.—What is the month of a teacher's engagement?

A.—The Calendar month. If your engagement begins on the fifth of September your first month ends the fourth of October, and the Saturdays as well as the Sundays are holidays. If you begin an eight months' engagement on the first of September your engagement terminates on the last day of April. Teachers should never agree to teach a given number of days for a month. The law does not require it and it frequently leads to difficulties. The number of teaching days in the calendar months is not the same. For the current year August has 21, September 22, October 23, and November 20 days.

Q.—Is the form of engagement contained in the act the only form that can be used, and must copies of all engagements be sent to the Department?

A.—The form contained in the School Law is a legal form but we are of opinion that any form drawn up in accordance with the general principles of the School Law would be considered a legal engagement. We are of opinion that very few copies of the engagements of teachers find their way to the Department.

Q.—Do the new regulations concerning Academy Diplomas prevent a third class Academy teacher's drawing an Academy Grant?

A.—As the Grants to Academies are divided up into three classes the Academy taught by a teacher holding a third class Academy Diploma, though excluded from receiving the first or second Subvention, may receive the third. It is not clear, however, from the wording of the regulations whether teachers holding Academy Diplomas before the adoption of the new regulations are included in the new classification or not.

Q.—Is an undergraduate who has passed the intermediate examination and subsequently passed before a Board of Examiners for an Academy Diploma, entitled to a second class Academy Diploma under the new regulations?