

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Boyle, McAllister, Clarke, Alexander, Doan, Barber, Harvey, and others, but no resolution was adopted.

Mr. David Johnston, of Cobourg, read a paper on

#### THE UTILITY OF TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS,

which will be given in full in the October number of the JOURNAL.

Mr. W. B. Harvey, of Barrie, President, read a paper on

#### MODEL SCHOOL WORK.

The regulations in connection with the County Model Schools are wise and patriotic. Third-class teachers not having permanent or renewable certificates can hardly be considered as members of the profession till they make a further step, but they are the only teachers available for many of our Public Schools, and so must be prepared for their management. Therefore our Model School work should consist of lectures on the best methods of school management, and teaching should be practically illustrated. There must also be practice for the student in the work of teaching, that his mistakes may be noted and corrected. This can be best attained by having the teachers in training watch and criticise one another's work. A familiarity with the principal points of school law and official regulations is desirable, but knowledge of all legal details is not essential. General literary education of these students has been undertaken by the Model Schools, but this plan should be altered. This work properly belongs to other institutions. The length of session that these students are required to attend is too short. They should have at least three or five months, and as a compensation for time so spent might have the duration of their certificates extended. This would avoid such frequent changes of teachers in Public Schools, and lighten the pressure that is now felt from overcrowding in our Normal School. Model School teachers should be the very best that can be secured, and thoroughness should be insisted upon. Uniformity in examination of candidates for third-class certificates is very desirable, and would be best attained by having all the papers prepared by the Education Department. Increased aid, in shape of a larger Government grant, to such schools is desirable and deserved.

The following resolutions, in reference to County Model Schools, submitted by Mr. Dickenson, were adopted:—

1. That the present standard for principals and assistants be adhered to.
2. That professional papers for M. S. students be set by the Central Committee.
3. That the county grant of one hundred dollars be made compulsory.
4. That the legislative grant be increased.

Mr. Hughes, Inspector of Schools, Toronto, explained the Phonic system of teaching reading. The first point of impression to be made upon the mind of a child is that the name of a letter is not the same as its sound when combined with other letters so as to form a word. He would with persistent illustration impress this fact upon the child's mind, distinguishing between what the letter is called and what it "says." Because children learn quickest what they have to do, they learn the sounds which they are taught to make quicker than they learn the word-names that they must memorize. As soon as the power of a letter is known, the pupil could at once, by naming the sounds represented by [letters in succession, read words and even sentences. He explained this at length, with many illustrations showing how to deal with letters having a duplicity of sounds. He would first give only one power of a letter, and when it occurred with another sound the child's sense and the other words in connection would prevent mistakes. He stated facts to illustrate the success of this method, and satisfactorily answered several questions regarding what seemed to be difficulties in its application. He regretted the unfitness of our present school primers for the purpose for which they are intended, and expressed a hope that very soon better appliances and a more scientific method for teaching reading would be adopted all through the Province.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. T. Hall, seconded by Mr. G. Treadgold, was adopted:—

That, in justice to the teachers of the Province, the clause relating to the Superannuation Fund which provides that teachers shall teach until sixty years of age unless disabled, should be amended by introducing a clause giving them permission to retire after twenty-five years of active service without forfeiture of their claims on the Superannuation Fund; and that Messrs. McAllister, Campbell and Spence be a committee appointed to lay this resolution before the Minister of Education.

Mr. R. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Boyle, moved:—

"That we recommend that the qualifications demanded from candidates for third-class certificates be the successful passing of the Intermediate Examination and the subsequent training at the County Model Schools, and we further recommend that the ages of candidates be not less than twenty years for males and eighteen for females."

The mover considered that the training of teachers in Public Schools interfered with the work of these institutions; that teachers of this grade were abundant; that the standard might profitably be raised, and the work done by High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.

The motion was discussed by Messrs. Boyle, McQueen, Campbell, Alexander, Dickenson, Kirk, Lindsay, Treadgold, Johnston, Monro, Clark, Hall. The resolution was carried.

The Section then proceeded to the election of officers, with the following result:—President, Mr. H. Dickenson; Secretary, Mr. Wm. Rennie; Executive Committee—Messrs. H. Strang, S. A. McAllister, R. W. Doan, D. Boyle, and Wm. Rennie.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SECTION.

A paper was read by Mr. A. Millar, M.A., of Walkerton, on the High School Programme, in which some changes were suggested, and a committee was appointed to consider the subject, and report at a subsequent meeting of the Section.

The report of the Committee appointed at the previous meeting was presented by Mr. McHenry. It recommended that a difference should be made between those candidates who are purely intermediate being promoted to the upper school and those who are aiming at taking second-class certificates, a lower percentage being desirable in the case of the former. This was unanimously agreed to.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously:—

That the Executive Committee of the P. S. Section be invited to meet with the Executive Committee of the High School Masters' Section to take into consideration the desirability of having candidates for third-class certificates examined on the same papers as those for second-class, and to report at the next annual meeting of the section.

After a discussion, in which Messrs. Strong, Purslow, Orr, McHenry, Robinson, Hicks, and others took part, it was moved by Mr. Strong, seconded by Mr. Purslow, and carried unanimously:—

"That in view of the fact that the grading of the High Schools and the distribution of a large portion of the legislative grant is decided according to the results of inspection, it is, in the opinion of this Section, very desirable that the High School Inspectors should be enabled to devote a greater amount of time to the work of inspection at their semi-annual visits."

The report of the Committee appointed to consider what changes were desirable in the High School programme was received. It suggested alteration in the science optional group, and the English history of the lower school. In the former, that the examinations be less mathematical and more practical in their character, and that the English history prescribed should be limited to some particular period.

After discussion, the report was unanimously adopted.

The subject of "Modifications of the Intermediate" was then taken up, and it was resolved:—"That in the opinion of this Section the intermediate examinations should be held in mid-summer."

It was also unanimously resolved:—"That in the opinion of this Section the system of rotation should be more fully recognized in the assignment of subjects to members of the Central Committee."

A vote by ballot was then taken for members of the Executive Committee, and resulted in the election of Messrs. Seath, McMurphy, McHenry, J. Miller, and Inspector Carson.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS' SECTION.

The Public School Inspectors' Section met on Wednesday, 18th August. Mr. J. C. Brown in the chair.

Mr. Wm. McIntosh moved, seconded by Mr. D. A. Maxwell,

That as different tests should be applied in the examination of second-class and intermediate candidates, this Section would respectfully suggest to the department that such changes be made in the regulations affecting such examinations as will allow of this being done." Carried.

Mr. Maxwell moved, seconded by Mr. Knight,