

## Teachers' Associations.

The publishers of the JOURNAL will be obliged to Inspectors and Secretaries of Teachers' Associations if they will send for publication programmes of meetings to be held, and brief accounts of meetings held.

**SOUTH HASTINGS.** Held in central school Belleville, 12th and 13th ult. The president, inspector J. Johnston, ably occupied the chair. The attendance was very large, and at times during the sessions several distinguished visitors from the city and neighborhood were present, who were cordially welcomed. Among them were Revs. D. Mitchell, Shorey, Burns and Dr. Jaques; also Messrs. T. Mills, chairman, board of Education, W. Johnston, Carmichael, T. Holden, school trustees, Belleville; Mr. Massey, school trustee, Sidney, Mr. Matheson, principal of the deaf and dumb institute, with Professor Coleman and Green from the same establishment. The proceedings were characterized throughout by the utmost attention and order, as well by the interest taken in the discussions—a feature which elicited many extremely instructive hints. The exercises were enlivened by organ solos performed by Prof. Stanistreet; and songs and recitations by the members. After opening, the report of Mr. O. S. Hicks, delegate to provincial association was received, and Mr. G. W. Sine was appointed delegate to next meeting. Prof. J. T. Bell gave a brief address on the importance of teachers' conventions as a means of mutual improvement. Mr. W. J. McCammon illustrated, with a class from Miss Simpson's division, the modern methods of teaching reading, which he treated in a masterly manner. Mr. Burke followed with a few well-timed remarks. In the afternoon Mr. J. L. Robertson of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL gave a brief address after which Mr. O. S. Hicks, Sidney, took up the subject of Map Geography and illustrated his method of teaching it. He deprecated the plan of filling children's memories with desultory names easily forgotten, and urged such drilling on the map that the towns and physical features thereon would be impressed on the mind through the eye. As a result, whenever a continent or country was named the map of it would present itself to the mental vision and a better knowledge of locality was thus secured. He advocated map drawing and the use of blank and outline maps. This very profitable exercise was well discussed by Messrs. Rogers, Black, H. E. Kennedy, M. A., Robertson, Burke, and others. Mr. J. Johnston I. P. S. explained the new programme for public schools giving at the same time some excellent practical hints for its successful use. Mr. G. W. Sine introduced the subject of monthly examinations and reports to parents, which was well discussed and resulted in a resolution proposed by Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Hicks and unanimously carried, to the effect that monthly written examinations be adopted in the district as helping systematic and uniform promotions in the public schools. *Second Day.* Mr. Wilson showed some simple plans of clearing away difficulties in arithmetic experienced by junior pupils. His plans were combated by Miss Urquhart and Messrs. Naraway and Black. Mr. H. E. Kennedy, M. A. proposed that the next convention be held in Trenton, seconded by Mr. Rogers. Mr. Sims, seconded by Mr. Sine, moved an amendment in favor of Belleville. The amendment was carried by a small majority. Mr. Johnston I. P. S. brought under the notice of the members some mistakes in teaching and discipline he had observed in the course of his periodical visits to the schools. By his kind advice and critical remarks it is evident many weak points will be built up to the benefit of both teacher and pupil. This admirable feature of wholesome, practical instruction is worthy of imitation in other conventions as it is calculated to promote the most beneficial results in school work. In the afternoon Dr. Wright, H. M. Belleville high school, gave an address on "Pupils' Rights", in which he represented the pupil as a miniature citizen of a regularly established municipality where he should learn to govern himself and others with justice and propriety. The teacher is his ruler but not his taskmaster, and the government should be exercised in a manner tending to advance the interests of both. The pupil has a right to the teacher's sympathy and also a right to take part in the teacher's responsibilities. The address was much appreciated and elicited warm applause. The committee on New Readers presented their report highly commending the series published by Messrs. W. J. Gage & Co., which was adopted; and afterwards Mr. Kennedy moved a resolution in favor of the authorization of one series of readers only, which was seconded by Mr. Naraway and carried unanimously. Dr. Wright then took up "Junior Composition." He said that young pupils could be got to write about many familiar things, and relate simple narratives in their own words, but if this operation were dignified with the name of "Composition" they would shrink from attempting it. Failures were chiefly caused by aiming at beautiful language. Mr. Carmichael, school trustee, treated the members to a splendid recital of a poem named "Magdala," which was well received. Thomas Wills Esq, chairman of the Belleville board of education was moved to the chair and Mr. Johnston I. P. S. gave his ideas on uniform promotions with a view to the adoption of the system. On the motion of Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. Rogers the following committee was appointed to formulate regulations and to arrange for the

system being put into operation:—Messrs. Burke, McCammon, Hicks, Sine, Rogers, Emerson and the inspector. A recitation in gesture expressive of the story of "The minister and the hornets", and another of "Christ stilling the tempest" were given by Prof. Green, deaf mute, of the Belleville deaf and dumb institute, in each of which the remarkable power of expression that gesture is capable of was forcibly shown. Prof. Coleman's duties as interpreter were scarcely needed. Votes of thanks were accorded to the visitors, who acknowledged the same in brief addresses; also to those who took part in the singing and recitations, namely: Misses A. Harrold, White, Carr, Rogers, Bolland, and Robertson, and Messrs. Millburn, Burke, Rogers and Smith.

**EAST VICTORIA.**—This association held its last half-yearly meeting at Lindsay on Friday and Saturday, the 13th and 14th October, the president, Mr. J. H. Knight, in the chair. After routine proceedings the president gave a practical address, and from time to time during the proceedings he availed himself of opportunities to enforce advice suggested by his own experience as teacher and inspector. At great expenditure of labor and ingenuity he had prepared a series of maps to illustrate the railway system of Ontario, and in a brief prelection he went over that system in detail, giving a clear exposition of traffic routes and geographical relations. Mr. Elliott, of Omenece, gave the convention his idea of the best method of teaching history. Mr. S. Armour read a thoughtful paper on "School Government" which elicited a brief but interesting discussion. The latter turned chiefly on the expediency of resorting to corporal punishment, and availing himself of what was said by members of the convention the Rev. Dr. Vincent of Chautauqua fame, who was at this juncture introduced to the meeting, delivered a stirring address on the influence of the teacher as a moulder of character. Part of Saturday was taken up with a discussion of spelling reform which was advocated in a brief address by Mr. Houston M. A. of Toronto. The question of school readers was discussed at some length and a resolution was unanimously adopted approving of the "Canadian Readers" published by W. J. Gage & Co. as greatly superior to those now in use and recommending their introduction. As the result of a discussion about the best method of expending the surplus funds of the association for the benefit of the members, it was unanimously resolved to take the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, one copy for each member. The evening lecture expected from T. Kirkland M. A. was dispensed with on account of the public lecture by the Rev. Dr. Vincent the same evening.

**DURHAM.**—The half-yearly meeting of the Durham Teachers' Association was held in Bowmanville on Friday and Saturday, the 13th and 14th of October. The proceedings were opened by the President, Mr. D. J. Goggin, Principal of Port Hope Public Schools, and, after the usual preliminaries, the subject of Promotion Examinations was introduced by Inspector Tilley. He told what he had done toward arranging the next promotion; he expressed his entire satisfaction with the result of the past examination, and asked for hints that would be useful in the future. He further suggested the advisability of holding township associations—in connection with the first promotion examination, and so having but one county convention in the year—this to last say three days. The subject was discussed by Messrs. Barber, Ellis, Keith, Reynolds, Symons, Tamblyn and the President, and finally left over till Saturday for further consideration. Mr. G. W. Ross, M. P., Model School Inspector, then gave an address on "Mistakes in Reading." He began by asking those present to suggest difficulties in reading that they had met with in their own schools. Some eight difficulties were at once given, and he proceeded to deal with these, showing how they might be removed. The first difficulty considered was—Monotony; the remedies proposed were imitation, phrase reading, simultaneous reading, and patience. Too low and too loud reading were next discussed and the remedy given for these, as for too fast and too slow reading, was chiefly simultaneous reading. Hesitation, stammering, indistinctness, and faulty enunciation were next taken up, their causes mentioned and remedies proposed. Other defects were noticed in the same way and an address, replete with interesting information, was brought to a close by a model lesson to a class in the first book, to impress the fact that the basis of all good teaching lies in an intelligent appreciation of the meaning of what is read and an honest effort to express it in pure sympathetic tones. The next subject taken up was "The best Method of Teaching Language," by W. W. Tamblyn, M. A., Head Master of Bowmanville High School. He enunciated two principles as governing all teaching of languages; first, repetition of correct speech; second, reproduction. The teaching of grammar at an early stage, indeed the teaching of it at all before the use of it is felt, was strongly condemned. The reception of such answers in oral work as are full and correct, was insisted on, and the interchange of vowel sounds and word building was adverted to as two principles, the knowledge of which would materially assist the teaching of language. Illustrations from the French and Latin were given to show the value of these principles. In closing he urged strongly the value of mixing in society, where good speech is the rule, and to read good books and familiarize. Messrs. Tilley, Keith, Goggin, Ellis and Grigg followed in a few remarks on the subjects of Reading the Language, and favored generally teaching by use of objects where