

On motion of Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Doan, it was decided to devote one day of the association's work during the last half of the present year to the meetings of the several grades independently, and that the Executive Committee be instructed to take steps to carry this resolution into effect in the several schools for the purpose of observing the practical work of the schoolroom. After some unimportant work had been disposed of, the singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

The conversation of the Association was held in the Normal School buildings on the succeeding Friday evening and proved an unequalled success in every respect. The museum and halls were thrown open for those who wished to promenade to some excellent orchestral music, while in the theatre the attractions were so interesting that there was hardly a vacant seat to be found after the entertainment commenced. Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, presided, and there was present on the platform Principal Caven, Mr. Hallam, and Mr. McAllister, President of the Association. Hon. Mr. Ross gave an address, which partook more of the character of a friendly talk with the teachers than of a prepared speech, and which was the principal feature of the evening. In the course of his remarks he said that a teacher must keep his mind in training by frequent reference to journals, etc. He should read books of travels, etc., in order that he might become posted in other countries, and be able to make the lessons more interesting. He would have to adapt himself to the idiosyncrasies and individualities of scholars, and for this he should try to broaden his literary horizon. The musical portion of the programme was ably supported by Misses Maggie Barr and Agnes Corlett and Messrs. Schuch and Hurst. Prof. Bohner presided at the piano.

**ALGOMA.**—The semi-annual meeting of the Algoma Teachers' Association was held in Manitowaning, on Thursday and Friday, 29th and 30th February, and although the weather was anything but propitious, quite a number found their way to the Convention, and a very pleasant and profitable time was spent. After calling the meeting to order, the President, Mr. G. F. Payne, delivered an excellent address, which contained some very original and striking remarks upon "School Books, what they are, and what they should be." After routine business was disposed of, the Librarian read his report, which shows clearly that the library is appreciated by teachers from all parts of the district. This was followed by a well prepared paper on "School discipline," by Miss Munro, which treated the subject very exhaustively. Mr. Thos. Flesher then read a very interesting paper on "Why the Teacher's Business is Desirable," after which the "Permanency of the Teacher" was discussed. A well prepared and very interesting paper on "How to Teach Geography" was read by Mr. Thos. Sims, which was followed by a paper on "Proper Method of Questioning and Answering," by E. J. J. Ferguson. The officers for the next year are:—G. F. Payne, President, Thos. Sims, Vice-President, E. J. J. Ferguson, Secy. Treas., T. Flesher, Librarian, Misses Pentland and Flesher, Auditors. Mr. Payne was appointed a Delegate to the Provincial Convention. Messrs. Brown and Cole were made Honorary members, and as both are men of practical ability the association will no doubt be benefited by their membership. This Association is steadily progressing, having risen from a state of almost insolvency to a flourishing institute with a good library and a surplus in the treasury. The next meeting will be held at Gore Bay, at such time as the Inspector may be able to attend.

E. J. J. FERGUSON, Sec.-Treas., Manitowaning.

**EAST MIDDLESEX.**—The meeting of the association was held in London, on March 1st, at 10 o'clock a.m., President Dearnness in the chair. There were over eighty teachers present. The secretary read a communication from Miss A. Orchard, secretary of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Ontario, memorializing the association to co-operate with them in urging the introduction of scientific temperance instruction into the public schools of the Province. After some remarks in praise of the movement, Mr. McQueen moved, seconded by Mr. N. Jarvis, that the secretary be instructed to reply, expressing the sympathy of this association in the said work and informing them that in this inspectorate temperance and hygiene have been placed on the curriculum of studies in the public schools and is taught in the majority of them. Mr. Jarvis gave an illustrative and amusing address on "Venerating in Teaching." He would divide the subject into two classes, legitimate and illegitimate. He illustrated the latter, and applied it to teaching. He thought it wrong to cripple the minds of youth by storing them with useless knowledge for the purpose of making a show. Mr. Smith took up the subject of "Literature." He would cultivate an insatiable desire to know. He would endeavor to have pupils learn the author from his work. Reproduction was of great value. The early introduction of literature would decrease the labor in other subjects, as it, correctly taught, would increase the vocabulary of the child. Discussed by Messrs. Liddicoatt, J. McLaughlin, and R. M. Graham. Moved by Mr. R. Walker, seconded by Mr. Smith, that our thanks be expressed to those who took part in the programme on Friday evening and to Mr. Colwell for use of organ. Carried. In the afternoon, Mr.

Liddicoatt took up the subject of assigning a lesson in history. He would assign a lesson, always keeping in view the idea that by laying a platform the pupils had, as it were, guiding lines for their own reading. The details could then be gradually added. It was a well-worded and instructive address, exemplified by means of the blackboard. Mr. Dearnness solved a number of typical questions in arithmetic. The Nominating Committee appointed by the President, reported the following officers had been chosen:—President, John Dearnness; 1st Vice., W. H. Liddicoatt; 2nd Vice., Miss Fannie Geeson; Secretary, A. McQueen; Treasurer, W. D. Eckert; Librarian, Wm. Bell. Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. W. F. May, that the report be adopted. Carried. Moved by Mr. Liddicoatt, seconded by Mr. Kerr, that in future the meetings of the association be held on Thursday and Friday instead of Friday and Saturday. Carried. Moved by Mr. McQueen, seconded by Mr. Jarvis, that the Management Committee have power to communicate with West Middlesex Teachers' Association for the purpose of amalgamating with them in conducting promotion examinations. Carried. Moved by Mr. Harlton, seconded by Mr. Walker, that the Management Committee have power to settle accounts contracted at this meeting. Carried. The first question from the question-drawer was taken up by Mr. Harlton: "A large boy prompted a small one to commit an offence. I punished both alike. The parents of the large boy are very angry that their son was punished. How should I have acted in the cases?" Mr. Harlton thought it was justifiable to punish both. Votes of thanks were passed to the press and County Council. The association then adjourned.

**STORMONT.**—The usual half-yearly meeting of the Stormont Teachers' Association was held in the high school building, Cornwall, on the 7th and 8th February. The president, Mr. McNaughton, I. P. S., in his opening address, gave the teachers some useful information regarding the recent uniform promotion examination. The following important motion was passed at the commencement of the meeting: Moved by James Smith, B.A., seconded by Mr. R. B. Carman, that "No amendment or alteration of the constitution of this Teachers' Association shall be made, unless notice of said amendment shall have been given at one regular meeting of the association, and voted upon and passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present, at the next following regular meeting." The election of officers for the current year resulted as follows: Mr. Smith, President; Miss Carpenter, Vice-President; Geo. Bigelow, Sec.-Treas.; Messrs. McNaughton, Relyca, Talbot, Miss Loucks, and Mrs. McLeod, Committee of Management. Messrs. Carman and Talbot were appointed auditors, and their report showed a balance in favor of the Association of \$76.68: adopted. Mr. Talbot was appointed delegate to the Provincial Association, necessary expenses to be paid out of the funds of the society. The question of text-books was laid over until the next meeting, to be held in Cornwall, on the 2nd and 3rd October of the present year. Mr. Harrington introduced the subject, "Minister of Education versus Chief Superintendent"—an interesting paper, and a lively discussion of the matter resulted in the passing of the following resolution:—Moved by M. F. Harrington, seconded by Judge Carman, that "It is the opinion of this Association that the Minister of Education should be retained, but that a change should be made in the Central Committee so as to give greater representation to the public school teachers and inspectors." Mr. Bissett gave a paper replete with useful instruction as to the teaching of geography, especially co-junior classes, calling attention to the several important topics in connection with it,—object lessons; the development and expression of ideas; local geography; natural scenery; the cardinal points, constant reviews; the use of maps; the order of topics; etc. Mr. Smith dealt with "Entrance examinations" in such a manner as to make those interested feel grateful that their teaching processes were conducted under auspices so favorable. The advantages of the present system were made apparent by contrast with the past. The following points of excellence were emphasized: Educationally they have improved our public schools and laid a better foundation for higher education. Financially, they prevent the crowding of unprepared pupils into schools for the sake of the increased grant; and socially, they prevent the high schools from being utilized as fashionable resorts for the upper and wealthier classes. Mr. Carman strongly advised the teachers to send their pupils to Cornwall High School Entrance Examinations. A very important action was taken with regard to the Temperance Question, and perhaps the best part of the work of the present session was done when this subject was under consideration. Surely there is hope for the country when the educators of youth give no uncertain sound upon this most important topic of the day. The eloquence of Judge Carman was never used to better purpose than in advocating the introduction of a Temperance Text-book into the public schools. We are encouraged to look forward to a time when humanity's progress towards its ideal will be unimpeded by the terrible evils condensed in the world of intemperance. A petition issued by the Women's Temperance Union was introduced by Mrs. (Judge) Pringle, asking the Minister of Education to authorize for teaching purposes a book setting forth the effects of alcohol upon the human system. The petition was signed by all the members present. The teaching of history in the