

sufficient monetary support, were reasons, in his opinion, why the present system should remain unchanged. He thought, however, the Minister of Education should be advised by a committee. The Opposition could not then criticise the Minister, as he would only carry out the suggestions of a competent committee.

Mr. Smith, Ancaster, said he did not think it prudent to rush in and discuss the matter in a hurry. There were no crying evils to be removed now, and he thought before they made a great many recommendations in the matter they should defer consideration of it until the next annual convention.

Mr. J. H. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. J. L. Hughes, that the discussion of this association on the subject of Minister of Education v. Chief Superintendent be reserved until our next annual meeting, and that in the meantime a copy of Mr. Bryant's recommendations be sent to each county and city association with a request that instruction be given to their delegates regarding their action in the matter.

Mr. Carlyle, of Woodstock, said if they discussed the matter now they would have a better knowledge of it next year.

Mr. Taylor, Ottawa, said they could appoint the committee on a different basis, but have its purposes the same. The present system had superseded a system which was found impracticable.

Mr. McKinnon said there was an element of weakness as well as of strength in the administration of educational affairs. Measures, not men, would be more likely to govern our school affairs under a Chief Superintendent. It was hard for a man to be a politician and an active educationalist. A Superintendent was not apt to be an active politician, and therefore he would be well up in his work.

Mr. Powell thought the fact that the former system was found inadequate and had to be condemned was sufficient reason why it should not be introduced again.

Mr. Strang said that any doubts he had in the matter had been removed by Mr. Bryant's paper. It was all very well for a paper to ask them to produce their objections. It was a delicate matter for them to state their objections. He felt sure that there were two dozen men in the room who could state their objections. He stated some objections, among which was one case in which an appointment was made when the appointee had not the necessary qualifications.

Mr. Carlyle thought they were deeply indebted to the Minister of Education in resisting the influence that had been mentioned. The question was how he had resisted at all, and would another resist as much as he had? He knew of a case in which a certificate had been granted, and of which the Inspector knew nothing. The country at present was divided into two—the one half to maintain and uphold the present system, and the other half to decry it. From what source had suggestions come for changes? It was a difficulty that gave rise to much friction. In Mr. Bryant's scheme there was no provision made for public representation.

Mr. Bryant said according to his scheme the Superintendent was simply an executive officer in carrying out the suggestions made. He thought no legislation in Parliament as to matters of education should take place without first coming before the Council of Instruction.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Strang, seconded by Mr. Goggin, that the motion be amended by inserting the following words:—"While expressing a general approval of the changes proposed in his paper, yet deeming it wise to have the question more fully discussed before pronouncing absolutely on it." The motion was carried.

#### LICENSING OF TEACHERS.

Mr. John Dearnass, London, read a paper on the "Licensing of Teachers." He believed the Model student did not gain the grasp of methods which would enable him to reproduce them according to his own individuality with adaptation to varying circumstances. He thought that while the County Model School was a step in the right direction it fell short in effecting anything of a lasting benefit owing to the shortness of the session. A beneficent reform would be to empower county boards to conduct examinations for admittance to their respective Model Schools. It was felt a mischievous evil of the bill of 1871 that teachers after taking a third-class certificate, and being allowed, we might say compelled, to teach a time, were thrown out at the end of three years if they could not then pass the second-class examination. This evil was partly remedied by the permission allowed candidates to continue their studies uninterrupted until the completion of literary work required for the life certificate. Now, unfortunately, an ill-advised regulation requiring a teacher to hold a non-professional third for a year

before he can write for his non-professional second launches us back nearly where we were before. If we cannot get back to that excellent plan of each county's board being governed by the known wants of its own jurisdiction in the matter of certifying teachers with the privilege of supplementing a scarcity by endorsement as before, let us in common justice to our young teachers make a uniform standard of examination for all those receiving unlimited license to teach anywhere in the Province.

The paper occupied nearly an hour in reading, and the above is only a synopsis of it. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Dearnass for his paper.

At eight o'clock the Convention resumed business.

Dr. Oldright, M.A., read an exceedingly valuable paper on School Hygiene, which we purpose to publish among our Special Articles at an early date.

Drs. Yeomans and Canniff also spoke on the subject dealt with by Dr. Oldright. A vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Oldright for his paper, and to Drs. Yeomans and Canniff for their remarks on School Hygiene.

An able address by G. W. Ross, M.P., on school matters was listened to with interest by the members at the evening session. The Convention then adjourned.

The Convention was called to order in the afternoon at two o'clock by Mr. MacMurchy, the president. The proceedings were opened with devotional exercises by Mr. McQueen.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

After the reading of the minutes, the report of the Executive Committee recommended the following gentlemen for officers of the association for the ensuing year:—President, G. W. Ross, M. P.; Recording Secretary, R. W. Doan; Corresponding Secretary, A. P. Knight; Treasurer, W. H. Hendry.

Mr. Bryant said that he had only one objection to the gentleman who was nominated for president of the association. It was that he was a politician rather than an educator.

Mr. McIntosh (Hastings) said he was as strongly opposed as anyone to the introduction of party politics in the association. Had he thought it was a question of politics he would have opposed Mr. Ross' election as strongly as anyone. The election of Mr. Ross would not injure the association or bring discredit on it.

Mr. Reid nominated Mr. J. L. Hughes as president. He thought Mr. Ross' parliamentary duties would stand in the way of his paying that attention necessary to the duties devolving on him as president.

Mr. Hughes stated that he did not wish to oppose Mr. Ross as a candidate for the office. He did not support Mr. Ross as a politician, as he was not of the same politics as Mr. Ross. He thought it was unfair for any of the members to sneer at any gentleman who was nominated for office, merely through some petty spite. He would like to see all personal matters kept out of the association. The association was not growing as largely as it might, and they should take every means of binding themselves together so that they might with the opinions of the society be felt outside to a greater extent. He had great pleasure in resigning in favor of Mr. Ross.

Mr. Carson said the nomination should be made from the Public School Inspectors' Section, and there were gentlemen in the section who were more entitled to the position of president than Mr. Ross. He did not wish to be in a losing battle, and he would withdraw.

Mr. Strang said politics were not brought up in the committee in connection with the nomination for president. They considered Mr. Ross merely as an educationist, and the nomination was purely a question of merit. The Executive Committee's report was adopted.

Mr. J. L. Hughes moved a vote of thanks to the Shorthand Writers' Association for the invitation to attend the conversazione.

#### AUTHORIZATION OF SCHOOL READERS.

Mr. F. C. Powell, secretary of the Public School Section, moved, seconded by Mr. Duncan, that the Provincial Teachers' Association disapprove of the authorization of more than one series of school readers. Carried unanimously. Mr. Powell also presented the following resolution to the Convention:—"That in the opinion of the Public School section the Education Department should take measures for enforcing the proper ventilation of school buildings." The motion was carried.