

NORTH YORK TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

THE regular meeting was held in Aurora's new school house, on Thursday and Friday, 10th and 11th June. About 80 teachers were present. Dr. McLellan was there, and gave addresses on the "A B C of Arithmetic," on the "Teaching of English Literature, and on the "Art of Questioning," besides a public lecture, Thursday evening, on the "Teacher's Work." His lectures and addresses were interspersed with considerable humor and were highly appreciated by all present.

Excellent papers were also given by Mr. Price of Queensville, on "Composition to Third and Fourth Classes"; by Miss Lizzie Ross, on "Look, and Say, and Phonic Reading"; by Miss Wylie of Richmond Hill, on "Primary Writing"; by Mr. Wilson, of Sharon, on the "Uses and Abuses of Text-Books"; and by Mr. Dixon of Newmarket, on different points in "Teaching of Grammar."

Mr. Lent of Richmond Hill H. S., gave an address on "Teachers' Unions," during the course of which he emphasized the necessity of increased efficiency of each teacher to secure an elevation of the profession, at the same time, he advocated a union for the sake of greater protection, and of securing more control over the entrance to the profession. To this end he suggested a remodelling of our Central Committee, making it an elective body, chosen by the teachers. It should be given extensive powers over the examination and admission of candidates to the profession, and over the authorization of text-books, etc. This would remove the possibility of such blundering as had characterized the work of the Department the last few years. He pointedly contrasted the action of the Department in the case of the Scripture Readings and in case of the Readers and the Public School History. In the former, they had submitted the work to the revision of a representative body of clergymen, the ones most competent to express an opinion on such matters, and then, after getting their approval, they authorized it for use in schools. In the latter case, more especially in the case of the History, they had authorized and published the work before securing the approval of any competent representative body. No one outside of the Department has had a chance to pronounce on the merit of the work, and yet we are ordered to turn out the other works we have been using for years and use the new. Had such a representative body as suggested had control no such mistake would have occurred. He moved a resolution "That in the opinion of the Teachers of North York, the time has arrived for a closer union of the Teachers of Ontario, for the sake of mutual aid and protection."

It was carried unanimously, as was also a resolution expressing approval of the course of the Department in preparing a series of Scripture Readings.

Mr. Dixon and Mr. Lent were elected delegates to the Provincial Association. Mr. Fotheringham, I.P.S., was re-elected President, and Mr. Rannie, of Newmarket, Secretary, the other officers being about the same as before.

There was a marked absence of discussion, a matter much to be regretted. It was suggested that in future parties introducing a subject take only twenty minutes—not read lengthy papers. It

would be better too if they had a less number of subjects on the programme; then there would be no excuse for attempts at summarily shutting off discussion.

A proposal to try Township Associations next fall was voted down. Aurora was fixed on as the place of next meeting. The hospitality of the people was very marked; and everyone went into raptures over the new school house, certainly no finer or better equipped school is in Ontario.

D. H. LENT.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE AND DISTRICT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

In our last issue we were enabled to give a very short digest of this very important meeting only, and now furnish the following more definite particulars:—The meeting was held in the Central School, and was fairly well attended by teachers and the patrons of education. Mr. Jos. Martin M.P.P., took the chair and referred to the rapid and excellent progress Manitoba had made in the matter of education. Mr. McCallum read a paper on "Examinations," which he thought should be treated as a means of education, and also as a means of perfection. Their object is to develop the mind. The candidate has time for thought; then he acts on his own judgment, and as "reproduction is a necessary part of the knowing act," the facts already learned are thus impressed upon his mind. Questions should be clear and terse, and neither too hard nor too easy, and covering only the ground gone over. Such examinations would be a key to other blanks left in the work, care should be taken with examination papers, which should be read over once before being marked to avoid being prejudiced by any one style of composition, neatness of paper or other cause.

Mr. Somerset was then called upon to address the meeting. He said he was glad to see the determination of the teachers to meet and discuss education in all parts of the Province. He thought that teachers in this Province isolated as they were were liable to get into certain ruts injurious to the profession. In Ontario the general public were waking up to the importance of Teachers' Associations. There they received a considerable sum of money from the Government, and they generally engaged men to lecture on teaching at their gatherings. Owing to the state of the treasury it would be some time before Manitoba could do the same thing. He asked the Portage Association to keep together and referred to the Toronto Association as an example of progress. Their labor would be now but the reward would come afterwards. In regard to our educational system he said the board of education were doing all in their power to increase the value of the system. But this could only be brought about by the teaching of to-day. Therefore, teachers whose experience is of value must be recognized in the carrying out of any arrangements for the improvement of the system.

At the last meeting of the Rowmanville High School Board Miss Chapman was appointed to the position about to be vacated by Miss Birnie, at the same salary, \$275 per annum.

OWING to ill-health Mr. Hodgson, School Inspector for the southern portion of the County of York, has resigned, and has been succeeded by

Mr. Fotheringham, lately Inspector in the North Riding. Mr. C. A. Davidson, who has had much experience both as a public and high school teacher, has been engaged as Mr. Fotheringham's successor.

ONE of the gold medalists at the recent examination for the degree of B.A., at the University of Toronto, was Miss Balmer. Of Miss Balmer *The Varsity* says: "Her university record is an exceedingly brilliant one, including as it does a double scholarship at each of the three first examinations of the course, the Lansdowne gold medal in the third year, and a first-class all around in the Modern Language Department at graduation. The Modern Languages have been her special study throughout the course, but she has at times, by way of diversion, taken up Mathematics, Metaphysics, and the Blake work. She has also been an active officer in the Modern Language Club. It was not Miss Balmer's privilege to attend lectures in University College until her third year. She was one of the first to enter when the college was open to women two years ago, and has been to some extent the representative of this reform among her fellow-students. Their well-wishes follow her.

The teachers of Oxford met in convention at Woodstock, on Wednesday morning. D. H. Hunter, B.A., Principal of the High School occupied the chair; Mr. J. T. Parr, Recording Secretary. The attendance was large. About 150 teachers of the County were present. The comparative merits of the educational journals of the Province, and the best way of securing them for teachers was discussed. At the second session the first subject taken up was the "Teaching of Literature," introduced by Mr. Archibald, Beachville. Mr. Dowler followed. J. W. Westervelt of London then took up "Book-Keeping." Mr. Carlyle followed with a most interesting account of the system of education with Normal, High, Grammar and Primary Schools. The expenditure for school purposes was \$700,500.00 per annum. Mr. Houston's remarks on "Spelling" were listened to with approval. In the evening the teachers met in the Court House to hear Dr. McLellan's lecture. As the Doctor was unable to be present Mr. Houston kindly supplied his place and gave an excellent address on the "Relations Between the School and the State." At Friday morning's session Mr. Houston took up "Composition." Mr. Taylor, Ingersoll, explained his method of teaching Arithmetic. At the afternoon session an address on the "Art of Questioning" was given by Mr. Smith, Inspector of Public Schools for the County of Wentworth. Prof. Freeland of London followed with an address. Staff notation was then explained by Prof. Misner of Norwich. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Institute in Woodstock.

THE following sentences from the *New York School Journal* might well be used as a motto for teachers: "The grandest thing in the world is to know what is right and have the courage to stick to it. Enjoyment isn't the end of life. Enjoyment will come in the course of duty, but if a man says: 'I'm going to make it the business of my life to have a good time,' he will have a very poor time; but if he says: 'I'm going to do my duty,' he will meet enjoyment very soon on the road, and they will go hand in hand to its end."