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At the last meeting of the Senate of the University of Toronto, one or two interesting items of business were transacted. On motion of Dr. Oldright, seconded by Dr. Wilson, a statute received its final reading, which provides that undergraduates pursuing an honour course, who have obtained honours, but failed in pass subjects attached to such course, may be permitted to present themselves in September in those pass subjects in which they have failed, and on passing in such subjects be allowed to proceed in honours in the following year, provided that no such undergraduate shall be classed in honours in the year in which he shall have so failed. This will be regarded as a boon by many, but we fear it will have the effect of making specialists look with still greater disgust than they now do upon the pass subjects totally unconnected with their favourite branches, which they are compelled to read in addition to their honour subjects.

Mr. Houston gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that English texts by authors prior to Chaucer, including selections from the Anglo-Saxon, should form part of the course for honours in the third and fourth years; also that a graduating department should be created to include Latin and the Romance lan-

guages, with such additional subjects as will make it a fair equivalent for the present graduating departments of classics and modern languages respectively. He also moved, seconded by Mr. King, that a special committee be appointed to report what changes, if any, it may be expedient to make in the Arts course under the head of Civil Polity, and also in the conditions on which the Blake scholarship is offered for competition. Adopted. We are glad to see some interest being kept up on the subject of Civil Polity, and hope that some day it will eventuate in the endowment of a chair in that branch.

Mr. Houston's motion that whenever English is prescribed as part of the pass course in the arts curriculum, it shall include the critical reading of prose texts for rhetorical purposes was lost.

On motion by Mr. Embree, seconded by Mr. Dickson, the following resolutions were referred to a special committee:

1. That the same principle that is now applied to the classification of honour candidates of the fourth year be also applied to pass candidates in all examinations.

2. That the terms "general and special" be substituted for "pass and honour" in describing the courses taken.

On motion of Mr. Embree, the following resolution was referred to the Board of Arts Studies:—That first-class teachers' certificates be accepted *pro tanto* in lieu of the senior matriculation for first year examinations, and teachers holding grades A and B be allowed honour standing of the first and second class respectively in the subjects in which those certificates are taken.

THE following interesting debate on the subject of the proposed College of Preceptors for Ontario took place at the West Bruce Teachers' Association:—

Mr. Powell said he had given the matter some attention, but did not fully comprehend it in all its bearings. The changes proposed were unquestionably radical in many respects. Principal Dickson's scheme was, however, only an outline and could be

modified. He gave a short account of the history of the movement and dwelt upon the leading feature of the scheme paying special attention to the advantages teachers would derive from the formation of the proposed college.

Mr. Freer favoured the movement. Teachers should have more direct control of educational matters than they at present possessed. They wanted unity of action, increase of professional spirit and independence. Education should, if possible, be placed outside the influence of politics. Men of experience and independence should direct and control the examination of teachers. The changes proposed would benefit the country as well as the profession. Already the country is losing confidence on account of irregularities in examinations and the granting of certificates. The present minister is a good man, but he will not always be in office, and we cannot calculate on having his place filled with men of the same experience and independence.

Dr. McLellan considered the proposed changes too sweeping. They asked the government to surrender some of its most important functions. A college of preceptors would do much to improve the teachers' position and for the cause of education. But teachers must be contented with moderate concessions on the part of the government.

Mr. McCung believed the move was in the right direction, and, though difficulties existed, urged upon the association to declare in favour of the proposed college.

Mr. Powell moved, seconded by Mr. Freer, "that in the opinion of the teachers of West Bruce in convention assembled, it is desirable for the purpose of promoting sound learning, and of advancing the cause of education, that a college of preceptors be established, based upon the principles and embracing the main features of the scheme outlined by Principal Dickson at the last annual meeting of the O.T.'s association in Toronto."

The resolution was passed almost without opposition. Only two votes were cast against it.