

the system had always been in advance of public opinion. What control did the State exercise over the system? The State controlled to a limited extent the people in the erection of Public School buildings. The people were controlled by the State in reference to the qualification of teachers, in regard to the hours of study, in regard to vacations and a great many other things, and they had to abide by it. He found according to the last report of the Minister of Education that the sum of \$251,356 had been given to Public Schools, while the total receipts for the maintenance of Public Schools were \$3,469,990. The grant *per capita* of the school population was a little over fifty cents. The number of teachers in round figures was about 7,000. Would any one say that the grant of fifty cents per pupil was at all commensurate either with the control the State exercised over the schools, or the vast importance of the work done by the Public Schools? He compared the support given to Public Schools with the support to High Schools and the higher educational branches. The aid to the High Schools during the year was \$84,304, and the total amount received for the support of the High Schools was \$373,000. He did not wish the grant to the High Schools lowered, but he thought the grant to Public Schools might be raised so as to compare favourably with High Schools. The Public Schools were the foundation of higher education. It was the duty of the State and those who controlled the system to attend more particularly to the education of children who were in the first, second and third classes. He also suggested new regulations with reference to the distribution of the legislative grants. For a great many years the Legislative grants had been divided among the municipalities according to the average attendance. The system was fraught with many evils.

Mr. Dearnness said that too much State aid would cripple local effort. He contended that the present system of apportionment did have a tendency to bring up the average attendance.

Several members expressed the opinion that an increase in the grant would be a popular move.

Mr. McAllister said that if the law in regard to compulsory attendance was enforced the grants received would be much higher.

Mr. McBrien said the people highly approved of the Government liberality to High Schools, but asked why the same liberality was not extended to Common Schools.

Mr. McKinnon thought the grant to Common schools was too small. The teachers did most important work for the community, and yet no class of professional men was so poorly paid.

Mr. Smith was in favour of increased grants to Public Schools, but doubted whether teachers' salaries would be much increased thereby. He would like to see some change in the method of apportionment, but could not suggest what that change should be.

Mr. Fotheringham thought it would be wise to distribute a portion of the grant upon the rate of taxation paid by the section; another portion upon the grade of certificate of the teacher, and the third portion upon the average attendance.

Mr McIntosh moved that it is the decided opinion of this meeting that the Legislative grant should be largely increased, and that the whole question of distribution be referred to a committee composed of Messrs Dearnness, McKinnon, Fotheringham, Burrowes, McKay, Miller, Brown, and the mover to report in detail as to the best mode of apportionment. Carried.

The meeting adjourned till 8 p.m.

EVENING SESSION.

In the evening not only was there a very large attendance of teachers, but many prominent citizens also were present. The main feature of the evening was the President's annual address, delivered by Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education and President of the Association. [See page 321.]

Mr. David Fotheringham moved, seconded by Mr. MacMurchy, that the Association express its high appreciation of the address, and tender a hearty vote of thanks to the President for having delivered it. This resolution was put by the Secretary and carried amid loud applause.

The President acknowledged the vote in a few words. He expressed great gratification at the success which had attended this meeting. He had not known a meeting which was better attended or at which the discussions were more earnest and interesting. He explained that the next part of the programme would be the hearing of reports from delegates of the various county Associations. In the course of a brief discussion upon the work of these Associations, he stated that in New York there was a staff of twelve men who did little if anything else than visit the counties and instruct the teachers in the latest and most advanced thought in connection with education. In some of the other States the same work was done in different ways. He had hoped to have two men to place upon the road to visit the several Associations for this purpose. He did not desire to interfere with the work of the Associations, for he understood that these organizations must be allowed to do their own work. But by this system he hoped to assist the teachers in their work without clashing with the Association.

Reports were then read from a number