

PREFACE.

In the winter of 1890-91 the Provincial Educational Association held its meetings in Halifax. There were but five sessions and 78 enrolled members.

The work accomplished was, however, very important. The following recommendations from a special committee were unanimously endorsed by the convention:—

1. That provision be made in our educational system for the distinctive professional training of all teachers of our public schools.

2. That the syllabus of examination for teachers' licenses be assimilated with the course of study for high schools (as revised), and it was suggested that third class, or grade D licenses, be based on the subjects of the first year; second class, or grade C, on those of the second year; and first class, or grade B, on those of the third year.

3. That in connection with examination for teachers' non-professional certificates, the Department of Education be requested to provide for the issue of diplomas to graduates of County Academies and High Schools.

4. That as soon and as far as circumstances permit, the various non-professional certificates be taken *seriatim*.

5. That the professional training of teachers should be held to include fuller instruction in Music, Drawing and Natural Science than that contemplated in the High School course.

The present Superintendent of Education, Dr. A. H. MacKay, adopted these changes very soon after assuming office.

Whether after a practical test of three years they have received the approval of the largest and most important meeting of educationists ever held in Nova Scotia, will appear from the following pages.

In preparing the programme for this Convention, it was intended that every phase of the educational questions of the day should be presented for treatment and discussion. Where there were two sides to a question they were both brought forward by their ablest exponents, respectively.

Yet, throughout the discussions, the differences of opinion seemed to be slight. Generally they were more apparent than real, and vanished as both parties came to understand in the same sense the terms used. There seemed to be but one aim, viz.,—to arrive at truth by a clear presentation of argument.

Every paper is published except one, which was unfortunately sent away before the author was asked for it. In order, however, to preserve the unity of the plan, its place is taken by another paper of great merit on the same subject.