

Educational Meetings.

ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

FOLLOWING is a summary of the proceedings in the different sections of the Ontario Teachers' Association at its recent annual meeting.

INSPECTORS' SECTION.

The Public School Inspector's section was presided over by Mr. Brebner, of Sarnia. The proposed regulations of the Education Department were discussed at length and several amendments agreed upon, to be laid before the Minister of Education.

The principal matter to which objection was taken was the proposal to have one entrance examination instead of two. A thoughtful and practical paper on "Proper School Equipment" was read by Inspector Fotheringham. Details of school furnishing and appliances were discussed by Mr. Fotheringham and the value of a complete equipment urged. The points on which he laid stress were:—1. Single desks, suitable to the size of the pupils, and properly arranged; 2. plentiful supply of blackboards for both teachers and pupils; 3. reference library, dictionaries, etc.; 4. appliances for calisthenic and gymnastic exercises; 5. washroom, etc.; 6. mathematical models, measures, weights, etc.

On motion of W. Colles, seconded by Mr. Deacon, it was resolved:—"That half-yearly reports be made as formerly, but that the school grants to rural schools be distributed on the basis of the annual attendance, and that the school year for these purposes close with the end of the first term in the calendar year."

Mr. Colles moved, seconded by Mr. N. W. Campbell:—"That in the opinion of this section the standard for 3rd class non-professional certificates, especially in grammar, composition and arithmetic, is too low for most counties in Ontario." Carried.

It was also resolved to recommend that a sample paper on elementary algebra be set in the 3rd class examinations and that 3rd class certificates should be valid only in the counties in which they are issued, or for which they have been endorsed.

Mr. Tilley moved, seconded by Mr. McKinnon:—"That in the opinion of this section the present method of distributing the public school grants is unsatisfactory, mainly because it tends to assist wealthy sections rather than needy. It is especially unfair to incorporate and other large towns." Carried.

The section also put on record its opinion that regulation 245, which at present reads "The Scriptures shall be read daily and systematically without comment or explanation, and the portions used may be taken from the book of selections adopted by the Department for that purpose or from the Bible, as the trustees, by resolution, may direct," should be amended after "systematically" to read, "without sectarian or doctrinal comment or explanation."

The following officers for the current year were elected:—Chairman, C. A. Barnes, Forest; secretary, D. Fotheringham, Toronto. Directors—Messrs. McKinnon, Brampton; Deacon, Milton; Tilley, Bowmanville; Dearness, London; Sinclair, Hamilton. Legislative Committee—Messrs. McIntosh, Madoc; Campbell, Kincardine; and Colles, Chatham.

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION.

The High School Masters' meeting was organized with Mr. Miller, of St. Thomas, in the chair. Mr. J. Burchard was appointed secretary.

A series of resolutions, proposing increased aid to high schools, was read. A committee was appointed to press the matter upon the Minister of Education. It was resolved to ask for the co-operation of school trustees. The resolution asking for increased aid set out the following among other facts:—The number of masters has increased from 252 in 1873 to 365 in 1885; the number of pupils from 8,437 to 14,250; the number of students matriculating in the various universities from 94 to 290; the number of students entering the professions from 290 to 639, and the number in the higher branches of study has about doubled. But during the same period, while the amount of

salaries paid increased from \$163,358 to \$294,077, and the total expenditure from \$264,215 to \$429,761, the Legislative grant to high schools and collegiate institutes was increased only from \$77,126 to \$86,169. Reference was made also to the great increase in the number of second-class certificates, and generally to the increased work done by the high schools and collegiate institutes in preparing teachers, and to the increased number of pupils attending from rural districts.

At a subsequent meeting a paper on "Classical Studies," by W. S. Milner, one on the "Course of Study in Higher Education," by I. J. Birchard, and one on the "Relations of Teachers to Trustees," by Robert Dobson, were read and well received, after which a consultation was held with the Minister of Education regarding increased aid to high schools.

Mr. Millar, of St. Thomas, and others, set forth the claims of the High schools for increased aid, and also represented that the counties did not pay their full share of the High school rate. Mr. Ross replied that the High school grant had been increased by \$9,000 in the last nine years, and that it did not appear to him that any additional aid could be obtained from the Legislature at present.

* * It might be worth while to consider if a part of the burden might not fairly be shifted to the shoulders of those who sent their pupils to the high schools. About forty high schools now imposed fees upon pupils for the relief of the taxpayers. A reasonable fee, made compulsory, might be no hardship to the person paying it, and might yield considerable revenue to the trustees. If, however, such a fee was made obligatory, the provision should be made that the municipality might by assuming the equivalent of that fee, relieve individuals from paying the same. It was desirable that public opinion should be satisfactorily cultivated with a view to secure for high schools that full consideration which they deserve because of the work they do.

The Minister also discussed with the members the proposed changes in the new high school curriculum. He stated that the desire of the department was to make the first form more effective towards the teaching of commercial subjects. The section asked Mr. Ross to reconsider his decision in the matter of dropping off algebra from the curriculum intended for candidates for third-class certificates. A committee was appointed to consider the subjects in the five departments in the Toronto University curriculum, with power to suggest any changes they might deem desirable to the university senate. A committee was also appointed to confer with the senate of Toronto University (1st) as to the general course of study, and (2nd) as to a special course, with the view that candidates who obtain the required marks in any one department may be classified with those for honours.

The following officers were elected:—Chairman, John Millar, St. Thomas; Secretary, I. J. Birchard. Executive Committee—F. W. Merchant, Owen Sound; J. Henderson, St. Catharines; C. Fessenden, Napanee, and J. Morgan, Walkerton.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SECTION.

The Public school section met in the Egyptian Room, Mr. R. Coates, Burlington, presiding. A paper was read by Mr. J. A. Hill, Dundas, on "The Teacher as a Factor in Moulding Character," which dealt ably with the practical and theoretical phases of the subject and was well received.

The next paper was read by Mr. S. B. Sinclair, of Hamilton, on the subject, "The Blending of Kindergarten with Public School Work." The weakest and most exposed point in their educational armour was, he said, the management of the child for the first four years, and there was a need to plead the cause of these little ones. The introduction of the kindergarten into our schools was a sign of the times that serious attention was being given to the subject. The gifts, songs, games, the home-like charm, above all the home culture, were the best possible physical, moral, and mental gymnasium which had ever been offered to young children. For himself he was a confirmed convert to the system after an extensive investigation, and he believed in its thorough success. He advocated its extension into the primary grades of the schools.

At the second meeting of the section the chief business was the consideration of the new school regulations. The clause referring to annual entrance examination to the high school was approved of by the narrow vote of 20 to 19. The clause provides for one annual examination instead of two in each year as heretofore. In connection with the adoption of this clause, it was agreed to recommend that the time table for 1st class A and B examination be arranged so that the examination can be taken in each department in one week. The section also approved of the changes made in the Normal school curriculum in confining the work more closely to professional training. Messrs. Powell, Doan, McAllister, Alexander, and Sinclair were appointed a committee to consider the equivalent for those who are asking to rank as certificated teachers as 1st A, B, or C, and also to secure an equivalent for those who are seeking to rank as graduates of the various universities.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Messrs. A. Barber, of Cobourg, and J. A. Brown, of Whitby, President and Secretary of the section respectively. The following Committee of Management was elected:—Messrs. F. C. Powell, Kincardine; J. Munro, Ottawa; H. Gray, Milton; S. McAllister, Toronto. Representative to the High school section, Mr. H. I. Strang, of Goderich. Legislative Committee:—Messrs. McAllister, Doan and Slater, of Toronto.

A resolution similar to that given notice of the day before in the general meeting on the teaching of the Bible in schools passed without discussion.

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

During the meetings of the Provincial Association a meeting of the teachers interested in Professor Holt's (of Boston) method of teaching music in schools, was held in one of the class-rooms. Mr. Duncan, Windsor, presided. It was explained that the object of the meeting was to discuss the question whether there should be one or more than one system of teaching vocal music in the Public schools.

Mr. J. Wisner, Parkdale, moved, "That in the opinion of the teachers present at this meeting there should be one system only of teaching vocal music in the Public schools of Ontario." The motion was adopted by a standing vote.

Several teachers spoke strongly of the need for a change in the method of imparting musical instruction, strongly condemning all the old methods. Holt's new system was held up as a remedy for the evils of the past, although it was noteworthy that not one of the speakers professed to know anything of that system beyond what had been learned during the past week's instruction at the School of Music; nor about the tonic sol-fa system except what had been explained by Mr. A. Thom Cringan on the previous evening in his debate with Prof. Holt.

Mr. Arnoldus Miller, Vienna High school, who said he knew little or nothing of the sol-fa method, ridiculed the system and hinted that it smacked too much of Scotland, some of whose ballad songs might well be sung to it. He inveighed against bag-pipe music with which the sol-fa method must have some affinity, but which to him was intolerable. What they wanted was a philosophical system which did not appeal to mere sentiment and from his week's training under Prof. Holt he was quite satisfied that gentleman's system would fill the bill. He moved "That a Provincial Music Teachers' Association be formed for Ontario." The motion was carried unanimously and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and rules for the new society. As noted elsewhere the proposed Association was subsequently organized.

CONCERT-MASTER EMIL MAHR, of Wiesbaden, has been engaged as teacher of Violin, at the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston. Mr. Mahr belongs to the Joachim School of artists, and has a fine reputation abroad. He has spent the last six years in London, as soloist and teacher; has held the position of *Chef* in Mr. Henschel's Orchestra there for the past year, and like positions in the Richter and Crystal Palace Orchestras. His coming to this country adds another to the galaxy of great artists in that Institution, and will place the Violin School in the very front rank.—*Musical Herald, Aug., 1887.*