

with educational matters, and the interest he took at all times in any means calculated to further a sound system of education. He related the difficulties he had witnessed on the part of those who had years ago attempted to frame a proper school system for Lower Canada. He explained the inception and progress of the school laws of Lower Canada. In the Province of Ontario it was an easy matter to frame school laws where they had a people to deal with speaking one language. They must not lose sight of this fact in comparing the working of the school systems of the two Provinces. He declared that the intention of the Government in regard to the school system of the Province of Quebec was to do justice to all parties. He believed that when codified and improved, as it would be, the Province of Quebec School law would be found a very good one. He remarked on the want of interest taken by the public in electing members to the School Board. He expressed his disbelief in the statement that the public wanted the Government to educate their children. He thought parents were too high-spirited to permit any such thing, and they no more expected it than that their children should be fed and clothed by the Government. The Government should certainly do something towards providing the means of educating children, but parents should do the rest. The duty of School Inspectors should be assigned to responsible men. Schools should be classified and teachers better paid. It had been stated, and he had upon enquiry learned, that the worst teachers were generally engaged first, because they could be had cheap. Such should not be. As to teachers being paid by government, if such were the case the government would certainly be entitled to have all the control, and how would that be relished? Another point was that if they did not pay teachers well how could they insist upon their being well qualified? He remarked on the difficulty of classifying schools in the country, where population was sparse as compared to the city. He advised the teachers present to lay the axe at the root of the tree by stirring up public opinion, and concluded with good advice to all those present engaged in educating the young.

Hon. GEO. IRVINE expressed the pleasure he had in being present on the interesting occasion. He yielded to no one in the interest he took in matters relating to education. He had listened with great interest to the discussion of the afternoon, and hoped it would result in good to the Common Schools. He referred to the difficulty of forming a perfect school law for Quebec. Even in England it had been a difficult matter, and how much greater must be the task where there was a division of language. He could tell them it was not the intention of the Government to impose any law that would be distasteful to either of the parties in Lower Canada, but to let each work out their own educational scheme. There was a great and apparent evil, and that was the want of public sympathy for the teachers. Everything ought to be done to create sympathy, and he thought they had taken a proper course to create that sympathy by coming together as they had done. He did not believe the people of the Province were so indifferent to the education of their children as had been stated, but only wanted their attention properly called to the subject. He believed the Government should assist them to a certain extent in educating their children, but parents should remember that they had their share of responsibility to bear. He strongly advised the teachers present, as a means of furthering their interests, to establish an organ or identify themselves with their local press and make use of its columns. They would gain more in that way than in any other he could see. He could assure them that he wanted to make his visit a practical one,

and that, he thought, was of more importance to them than making an eloquent speech. He referred to the necessity there was for the proper classification of schools, and thought that if the higher schools were not worthy of their *prestige* they should not be permitted to draw money away from others. The Attorney-General again stated that he would do all he could to make his visit a practical one, and concluded by stating that the Hon. Mr. Ouimet would have been present but for an unfortunate accident he had met with a short time ago.

Principal Hicks and W. W. Lynch, Esq., M.P.P., followed in effective speeches. A reading by Prof. Andrew, of Montreal, created great amusement. Several anthems were sung by the choir of the Church in a very creditable manner during the evening, and the meeting, which was a very interesting one, was brought to a close by singing the Doxology.

#### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock, the President in the chair.

After the reading of the minutes, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with and resulted as follows: President, W. W. Lynch, M.P.P.; Secretary, F. W. Hicks, M. A.; Treasurer, Professor McGregor.

Granby was named as the next place of meeting.

The Assistant-Secretary of Public Instruction, H. H. Miles, LL. D., D. C. L., then addressed the Convention, as follows:

Dr. Miles said he thanked the Chairman for his kind consideration in reserving time and opportunity for him to offer a few remarks. He had not prepared a paper on any particular educational topic, but would take occasion to present his views to the Convention on topics which had been adverted to by speakers on the previous day. He had listened with attention to the discussions which had taken place and regarded them and the large number of contributions of teachers to the business of the meeting as good evidence of vitality in the Association. It was at one time thought that the Association would degenerate into a sort of debating society on the politics of the day and that it would, therefore, fail to secure either public respect or the sympathy and co-operation of the principal state officials who might otherwise be very willing to promote its endeavours in favour of Protestant education in this Province. Happily the Association had steered clear of that danger and its members had devoted their attention to matters belonging to their vocation and to the fundamental objects of the society, namely, "The promotion of education in the Province and to enhance and elevate the status of Teachers," and the consequence was that the Association carried along with it the respect of the community and the sympathy and co-operation of those who had the power to help. Dr. Miles then said that the Hon. Mr. Ouimet, the Minister of Public Instruction, had been unable to leave the Capital for the purpose of attending this Convention, but he had charged the speaker to express his regret and to assure the teachers that he sympathised with them in their endeavours to accomplish the objects of the Association, which he knew were for the benefit of public education, upon the right direction of which by the teachers themselves, the substantial welfare of the country much depended. In illustration of this sentiment of the hon. minister, Dr. Miles quoted the words of Dr. Playfair by whom the examples of Spain and Holland had been cited—the former having decayed chiefly from want of knowledge to utilize her vast natural resources, her people ignorant and uneducated, while Holland, a mud-produced country, fenced-round by dykes to prevent the ocean from sweeping it away, and without any of the advantages of her