

Regnaud, Valade and Leroux, for the active part they had taken, and the valuable counsels they had offered. To this Messrs. Valade and Leroux responded in appropriate terms. After a vote of thanks to the President, the meeting adjourned to the last Friday in May.

**Ninth Conference of the Association of Teachers within the limits of the Laval Normal School, Held Saturday, the 26th January, 1860.**

Were present: Rev. Langevin, Principal, and the Rev. Abbé Fortier; F. E. Juneau, Esq., I. S.; and Messrs. J. C. Lafrance, (President) F. X. Toussaint, Chs. Dion, A. Doyle, J. B. Cloutier, Ls. Lefebvre, Jos. Létourneau, B. Pelletier, N. Thibault, A. Demers, J. Donnelly, B. Rouleau, J. DeGuise, A. Esnouf, Geo. Tremblay, Régis Roy, O. Legendre, N. Lacasse, L. F. Tardif, Thél. Lefebvre, F. Fortin, J. Lachance, P. Drolet, F. X. Gilbert, S. Côté, and E. Labrèque, teachers, and the pupils of the Laval Normal School.

The minutes of the last conference were read and adopted. Mr. Louis Lefebvre delivered a lecture on "Electricity;" Mr. C. L. Lafrance spoke on the lot of the teachers in the country, and mentioned the many difficulties they have to contend with in obtaining their salary from the School Commissioners. The following question was then discussed, viz: "What are the best means to secure to the teachers under the control of the Commissioners, the regular payment of their salaries;" and the following resolutions, proposed by the learned Principal, were unanimously adopted:

**Resolved**—That, in the opinion of this Association, the regular payment of the salaries of the teachers under the control of the Commissioners, might be obtained by the following means:

1o. If the Secretaries-Treasurers of the scholastical municipalities were strictly required to give security every year.

2o. If the Inspectors examined carefully and in detail the accounts of the Secretaries-Treasurers, and ascertained the amount paid and the amount due to each teacher, by questioning the Commissioners and the teachers themselves, and if they were obliged to make, semi-annually, a report in detail to the Superintendent.

3o. If the Commissioners were bound to exact the monthly fee, and to pay the teachers with it every month. The balance due to the latter could be paid on receipt of the Legislative grant.

4o. If, according to the law, the Commissioners, exacted the payment of the rate from the rate payers during the month of July of each year, and if they were bound to sue those in arrears after the delay of one month (the month of August), under penalty of themselves paying personally a fine. It should devolve on the Inspector, in his quality of Justice of the Peace, to exact the fine, without the power of exempting them from that obligation.

5o. If the Commissioners were condemned to a similar fine by the Inspectors, should they delay more than a month after the expiration of each term to pay in full the salary of the teachers for that space of time.

**Resolved**—That a petition, based on the preceding resolution, be signed by the President, in the name of this Association, and sent in to the Honorable the Superintendent, with prayer that he be pleased to submit it to the favorable consideration of the Council of Public Instruction.

Resolutions were afterwards passed expressing the gratification of the Association at the appointment of Messrs. Juneau and Boivin to inspectorships. It was also resolved to request the Superintendent to permit that the payments of subscriptions to the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*, and the premiums to the pension fund be in future placed into the hands of the Principal of the Laval Normal School.

The following subject was chosen for debate at the next meeting: "What would be the best means to adopt so as to fix the minimum of salary to be paid to teachers?"

The meeting then adjourned to the last Saturday of May next.

**Teachers' Association in connexion with the McGill Normal School.**

**ANNUAL REPORT.**

*To the members of the Teachers' Association, in connexion with the McGill Normal School.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The committee of the Association beg to submit their third Annual Report for the year ending 1st Jan. 1860.

As the work in which the Association has been engaged during the past year, so nearly resembles that which occupied their attention during the previous one, a lengthened Report of its affairs is, in the opinion of your Committee, entirely unnecessary; particularly when it is taken into consideration that the business of the officers is so well understood by the members.

For the information of teachers in general as well as other friends of Education the Committee considered it necessary to insert an advertisement every month in the *Montreal Transcript*, giving the subject of the Essay to be read, and the name of the Essayist, the day and hour of meeting, etc. By this means, it was thought, many more would be induced to join the association; but in this the Committee regret to say they have been somewhat disappointed. The attendance at each monthly meeting is, however, taking many circumstances into account, quite satisfactory—the number of Teachers and assistants averaging from 25 to 30.

It is to be earnestly hoped that the Association will persevere in its work, and should the results be but small and gradually produced, still in time the good effects will be seen and appreciated by all who have the cause of Education at heart.

Your Committee have given up all hope, at least for the present, of being able to obtain a government grant in aid of the funds, all their efforts to procure such assistance having failed.

The Papers read and discussed during the year are as follow:—1st by Mr. Maxwell, subject, "Sacred History." 2nd by Prof. Hicks, subject, "Mental Science: A study of importance to the Elementary Teacher." 3rd, by Mr. Burns, subject, "Algebra." 4th. by Mr. Pope, subject, "Map Drawing with illustrations." 5th., by Mr. Brown, subject, "The object of Teachers' Associations." 6th by Mr. Robertson, subject, "Language." 7th by Miss Matinson, subject, "Music with illustrations;" this Paper was repeated. 8th by Mr. Arnold, subject, "The Progress of Education in Lower Canada." Each of these Papers formed a topic of much discussion among the members, and often elicited many practical hints that may be the means of assisting the teacher in his difficult and arduous work.

The Committee cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking the Editors of the *Montreal Herald, Gazette, Transcript, Witness* and *Journal of Education*, for their kindness in publishing the Report for the year 1858.

The Editor of the last named journal also deserves their cordial thanks for publishing in full several of the Essays read before the Association.

In closing their labours for the year 1859 your Committee would now offer up their humble thanks to Almighty God for his guidance and assistance in the important work in which they have been engaged, and they would earnestly recommend every member to seek His help, not only to further the objects of the Association, but for the progress of Education in general throughout the country, for without His blessing on the Teacher's labours it is in vain to hope for good and permanent results.

H. ARNOLD,  
Corresponding Secretary.

Montreal, March 1860.

**Report of the Chief Superintendent of Public Instruction for Lower Canada for 1858.**

*Translated from the French by the translators to the Legislative Assembly.*

Extracts from the Reports of the Inspectors of Schools.

Extracts from Reports of Inspector BRUCE.

*Huntingdon*.—Since 1855, Education has made rapid advancement in this municipality, and were they not so much given to changing teachers, I believe, the advancement would still be greater. At present, three common schools and the Academy are in operation.

*Elgin*.—The five schools of this Township are kept pretty regularly in operation, except the School of District No. 2. The most manifest progress of scholars, is in schools of districts Nos. 3, 4 and 5. The children attending No. 2 progress very little. What very much retards education in this township is low salaries. The highest salary is only £36. The consequence is, that teachers of superior qualifications never apply for their schools. Small salaries are not to be attributed to the people's want of means. Elgin is one of the most thriving townships in this part of the Province,—