

It is a movement which calls for the careful consideration of the teachers of this Province.

These Reading Circles present great variety of organization in the different states. In some cases, as in Ohio, they are organized under the direction of the education department. In other cases, as in Iowa and New Jersey, the movement has originated from, and has been connected with, the State Teachers' Association, and is entirely free from government control, and in a few instances the Reading Circle has been established as an independent organization. In each Reading Circle, however, there is a board of directors, composed of seven or eight members, a President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, who have charge of the general interests of the State Circle. They determine the course of reading; they name the text-book to be read in each subject; they prepare the rules and regulations concerning local circles, fees, examinations, certificates, &c., and control the details of organization and general management. The *Local Circle* is the unit of organization and of work. A superintendent or manager is provided for every city, town, or county, for the formation of local circles, but any five or ten teachers who have become members of the State Circle may organize themselves into a local circle in any township or neighborhood, appoint a secretary to be their medium of communication with the county manager, and so form a recognized element of the State Circle. It is this power of expansion which forms one of the chief excellencies of the Reading Circle. By this means, the full benefits of the Circle can be extended to the most sparsely settled portions of the country districts, and teachers who may be unable to attend associations, institutes and conventions, can take advantage of this means of self-improvement. The conditions of membership in these Reading Circles are—1st, an annual fee of 25 or 50 cents; and, 2nd, a pledge to read faithfully the course of study and text-books, as laid down by the board of directors. These fees are used to defray the necessary expenses of management, a portion of which is retained by the local circle and the remainder forwarded to the secretary-treasurer of the board of directors.

The preparation of the course of study and the selection of books to be read is, of course, the most important part of the work of organization, and, as might be expected, the courses differ upon many important points. Some boards of directors were of opinion that the primary object of the Reading Circles is to give the teachers a clearer apprehension of the underlying principles of their vocation, to give them a better understanding of the science of education and of the best methods of instruction and school government, and have accordingly provided a purely professional course of reading, as in the case of the New York and the Virginia State Reading Circles. In the majority of cases, however, it has been thought desirable to encourage a wider general culture among teachers and to combine professional and general reading in the course adopted; and in one or two instances, professional subjects occupy a secondary