

Industrial Education

Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday at 9.30. Mr. H. J. Russell in the chair.

Officers for the year were elected as follows: Chairman, Mr. Mulock; Secretary, Mr. A. Beech.

The chairman welcomed the members. A summary of his remarks is printed later.

Mr. Warters gave a talk on Technical training.

Mr. Foye followed, and then Mr. Beech. Their papers are printed.

It was suggested that the two associations should meet during the year.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

By H. J. Russell.

A little girl, who had been with her mother, to a meeting, said on her return home, "Mother, now I know the secret of how to be a great orator. You say two or three sentences very slowly and then you wait for the applause." I can, of course, make no pretensions to oratory and I can promise you that I am not going to attempt a real speech.

There are, however, a few little items that the programme requires me to present, and if I shall hesitate unduly in the telling of them, it will not be because I am waiting for applause, but rather because I lack that happy facility of expression that a chairman might justly be supposed to possess.

I notice in the audience a number of visitors whom we are very glad to welcome and we hope that they will feel free to contribute their experiences to our discussions here today. For their information I might say that the Industrial Education Section of this Convention comprises those members of the teaching staffs who are engaged in the several departments of Manual Training, Technical and Commercial education.

As I understand it, the teachers in those departments are endeavoring to plan an education suited to the needs of an industrial democracy, that is to say, an industrious democracy, and if we require justification for our efforts in matters technical we need not look far for the signs. During the past year dozens of associations of standing in the Dominion have declared their belief in the necessity for renewed efforts in the furtherance of technical training. Among these, I might mention the Retail Merchants' Association, the Industrial Bureau, municipal organizations, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, boards of trade and civic research leagues. Several of the members of the Royal Commission on Technical Education have repeated their convictions of the importance of this work and we are all familiar to some extent with the great efforts that are being put forth on behalf of our returned men. On that point, Mr. Warters will speak with authority.

It is gratifying, too, to note that our Provincial University has successfully introduced a scheme of higher business training in which already one hundred and twenty-five retail merchants of Manitoba have taken part. In the negotiations leading up to this work, President MacLean put the situation very happily when he said that we wanted not only a State University but a University State.

As educators, our duty is two-fold: we have first a duty to the student, but we have a further duty to the business, industry or profession that is to receive that student, and the problem before us, briefly stated, appears to be this: "How can we best bring together our industrial, commercial and human resources so as to produce the maximum results?"

I know that it has been said, and said frequently, and perhaps it will be said at this convention, that in providing our future citizens with a practical education we are in danger of neglecting the cultural and idealistic side of educational endeavor. That, ladies and gentlemen, is a fallacy that has gone too long unbranded. It is a theory that has worked to our sorrow in the great struggle that today engages our efforts. We need good citizens but we need citizens who are good for something. Teach a man to do something well. Help him to become a master of his art and he, above all others, is the one most likely to acquire an increasing respect and reverence for his Maker and his God. It is a point that I would like to enlarge upon, but I must give way to those better able to occupy your time, and without more ado, I will direct your attention to the programme before us.

You may, and I hope that you will, hear this morning some theories with which you do not agree. You may hear of plans that you have not yet tried. I am sure that you will not reject them summarily. May I remind you of a phrase in a letter that Lincoln wrote to an editor during one of his strenuous presidential campaigns. "I shall," said he, "adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be true views."