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The Educational Weekly

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TORONTO, AUGUST 19, 1886.

THE daily papers have given such full reports of the daily proceedings of the Ontario Teachers' Association, that we deem it unnecessary to give any detailed account of the various transactions. The President, Mr. Samuel McAllister, headmaster of Ryerson School, Toronto, was in the chair, and Mr. Robt. W. Doan acted as secretary. After devotional exercises, Treasurer W. J. McHenry presented his annual statement showing the receipts, including a balance of \$514 from the previous year, to be \$866. After making necessary payments, the treasurer has now \$543. In the afternoon Mr. O. J. Jolliffe, M.A., of Ottawa, read a paper on "Our Profession," and J. E. Wetherell, M.A., of

Strathroy, read one on "Conservatism and Reform in Educational Methods. In the evening President McAllister delivered an able address.

On the second day of the meeting a large number of most important topics were broached, amongst others, the proposal to form a College of Preceptors, a full account of the aim and scope of which will be found on page 468 of this issue. In the evening Dr. Dewart read a paper on "Education in its Relation to Human Progress."

On the third and last day, Mr. Houston moved the appointment of a committee, with instruction to report what steps have been taken by governments, universities, colleges, teachers, associations and learned societies to secure the general introduction of a simpler, more phonetic spelling of English words than the one now in force. Mr. Embree moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, that the regulation in force in 1883 be restored, requiring that no candidate shall be permitted to present himself for non-professional examination for second-class teacher's certificate until one year shall have elapsed from the time of his obtaining his third-class non-professional certificate, provided, however, that should any candidate obtain forty per cent. of the aggregate number of marks at any third-class non-professional examination, he shall be permitted to write at the second-class non-professional examination in any subsequent year, one year's notice to be given before such regulation should come in force. The motion was carried. Mr. D. C. McHenry, Cobourg, read a paper on "Prizes and Scholarships." This we hope to be able shortly to give our readers in full. At the evening session his Worship Mayor Howland delivered an address on "Practical Education in Industrial Schools." The committee on the president's address reported recommending that the Minister be asked to make such a change in the form of the reports that they shall state the number of children between the ages of seven and fifteen inclusive. The report was adopted.

The more important business transacted in the Inspectors; High and Public School Sections, will be found in our "Educational Intelligence" columns.

On the whole this, twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association, was one of the most important ever held, and radical measures for reform were fully discussed, and changes in the educational system of the Province of a far-reaching nature were freely spoken of. Of these measures and changes we shall have much to say in future issues.

THE candid and well informed Toronto correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* writes as follows to his journal in the week preceeding that of the meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Convention: "Next week bids fair to be a more than usually stormy meeting, owing to the difficulty experienced by many of the candidates in passing the departmental examinations. There is always some grumbling at these annual meetings, but if the amount of newspaper correspondence is a fair indication, nothing like the present indignation has ever before been felt. That some of the commotion is probably due to personal animus, does not lessen the chance of a 'ruction'; it rather increases it. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the Minister of Education will not return from England until the storm is over, and he will then have an opportunity of studying at his leisure the debris left by the cyclone. In a previous letter I indicated one or two directions in which the Department might safely make reforms in the conduct of examinations for teachers' certificates. To them I may add this suggestion, which has been made over and over again during the present controversy: allow candidates for the higher grades of certificates to take a portion of the work one year and another portion another. At present if a candidate fails in one subject he fails altogether, and in order to pass hereafter he must keep up the whole of the work as well as get up that portion in which he was deficient."