

pupil a good vocabulary, inasmuch as they are apt to memorize the words of a song in a short time and remember them. This lesson, though short, was sound and practical. Votes of thanks having been passed to the various members who brought subjects before the Association, a resolution of condolence with J. R. Miller, I.P.S., in his present affliction, was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be transmitted to him. The meeting then adjourned, to meet again in Goderich at the call of the Executive Committee.

CONFERENCE OF THE WENTWORTH COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES.—A meeting of the Wentworth County School Trustees was held on the 7th of March at Hamillon. There were thirty-five trustees present, and the meeting was a most influential one. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. H. Smith, County School Inspector, and Mr. James H. Wilson performed the duties of Secretary. Mr. Smith addressed the meeting at some length on the programme of subjects to be brought forward for discussion, and submitted the report of the Committee on Text Books. A lively discussion then took place on the subject of text books, and some of the trustees spoke out very plainly against many of the books now in use in the Public Schools of the county. With reference to the Readers, considerable dissatisfaction seems to exist, and the desire prevailed in the meeting that the Readers should be of a more national tone, and that only one series should be authorized by the Government. A number of the trustees took part in the discussion, after which the report of the Committee on Text Books was adopted. After a brief recess, and on the arrival of additional trustees to take part in the proceedings, Mr. Boyle addressed the Conference on the "Royal Canadian Readers." He pointed out the excellence of the series about to be published by the Canada Publishing Company, and referred to the numberless errors likely to arise from the attempt to assimilate a merely English publication to the wants of Canadian pupils.

On motion it was resolved, "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the books entitled "English Readers," published by Messrs. Gage & Co., are not, in their present crude state, worthy of authorization for use in the Public Schools of Ontario."—Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. A. M. Orr, seconded by Mr. C. P. Carpenter, "That in the opinion of this meeting there should be but one series of Readers and one Geography authorized; and that all text books should be thoroughly inspected by a competent committee of educationists before authorization."

Moved by Mr. Calder, seconded by Mr. Orr, "That no person interested in the production of a text-book should have any voice in its authorization."

The discussion on the question of the steps to be taken to increase the attendance at the Public Schools was opened by the Inspector, who submitted a blank form to be sent by teachers to the parents of absent pupils, notifying them of the number of days absent. It was resolved, on motion of Mr. Barclay, seconded by Mr. Wyllie, "That the form be adopted for use, with the addition of the number of times late." The trustees thought that the calling of the trustees together once a year, as had been done already, would serve the purpose intended by a Teachers' Association, and no new Association was formed. The Chairman and Messrs. Orr and Calder were appointed a committee to draft a resolution on the death of the late Dr. Ryerson, Superintendent of Education. They reported the following, which was adopted unanimously: "That this meeting desires to express its high appreciation of the services rendered to the Province of Ontario by the late Egerton Ryerson, D.D., for many years occupying the distinguished position of Chief Superintendent of Education, and ventures to express the conviction that he will long live in the affections of the people, who gratefully acknowledge the immense service he has rendered to the cause of education in this country." The meeting then adjourned, to meet at the call of the Inspector.