

givn us and our plea:

"This department of the Ont. E. As'n aproves the movement for beter speling as outlined by Dr Hamilton, and a committee (A. Hamilton, M. A., M. D., L. T. Locheed, M. A., Cha's G. Fraser) prepare a list of words comonly spelt in more than one way, indicating where (a) two forms ar equally acceptabl; (b) one is preferd; also, a word list for which aproved spelings ar suggested by pronunciation, derivation, or analogy.

"Teachers ar requested to send the sec'y of the department words wisht included.

"The Minister of Edu'n is askt to publish this wordlist among teachers, that it be discust at next meeting with view to adoption."

The committee went to work with a wil. In the Century diction'y it found a list of 1783 "disputed spelings" which with lists in Worcester's and other dict's wud make a list aproaching 2500 like words. Filologic societies hav joind to recomend 3572 amended spelings, not counting derivativ words. The Geografic societies work in acord to ad more. The U. S. Board on geografic names hav publisht a First Report to end of 1891 of which pages 11 to 56 ar filld with names and coments; a suplem't givs additions (pages 5 to 36) from 1892 to 1897; a later consolidated report prepared is not yet printed oing to a fit of economy or some political hitch at Washington; a great diversity in Scripture proper names is superseded by uniformity in the Revized Version; the chemical section of the Amer. Asoc'n for Advancement of Sience strugld for four years from 1887 with the pronunciation and speling of chemical terms with report of progres to each annual meeting (one of which was the Toronto one) and agreed in 1891 to ad large numbers of improved spelings in chemistry which forthwith went into use; Sir W. Hunter did a great work in puting place-names in India in Romanized form, geografic societies contenting themselves by refering to Hunter's Gazeteer for Indian place-names; the British Admiralty and the Navy Department at Washington hav workt in remarkabl acord with one another and with the aforesaid U. S. Board; Japanese names ar largely in order in a Roman dres, thanks to Hepburn and coadjuters, a leading one of whom was Rev. C. S. Eby, an Ontario man; Chinese names ar mainly in caos; Aboriginal names in pan-America mark places, rivers, lakes, etc., and yet vary greatly—to rectify them is a work no Hepburn or Hunter has yet undertaken, tho Capt. Dwight H. Kelton and late Father Edward Jacker made a good begining.

In this superabundance of variant spelings (perhaps 25,000 in number) the committee in a six-page report (kindly printed by the Educational Department—a few copies yet to be had) decided to rule out reformd speling and cleav to what is es-

tablisht in good, respectabl uzage:

"A complete list wud include almost 20,000 words; and such list, with suitabl notes, coments and explanations, of filologic nature, might be undertaken by the Education Department, and wud make a valuabl work of reference for teachers and students. But, considering that too voluminos for this report, we include such words only as ocur frequently in genral literature and the Ontario readers, with a few geografic names. This list might be made more complete by provincial teachers co-operating and communicating with the secretary. We include in our list none but those sanctiond by respectabl uzage, avoiding whimsical or capricios forms."

"What ar yu going to do about it?" was anserd: *Do like the printers:*

"Evry large printery has its 'Rules of the Office, indicating speling folod (to which each shal conform while) in that office. They comprise clases of words supplemented by a wordlist. For each scool we suggest such rules and list carefully chosen by responsibl peopl connected with the scool. Scools of a township, county, or province might agree on these as

RULES OF THE SCHOOL

1. Write e for æ and œ.
2. Omit u in -our, as 'honor.'
3. Do not dubl the consonant in weak syllabls of verbal derivativs, as 'traveler.'
4. Spel: 'center', 'fiber', 'meter', etc.
5. '-ize' if of Greek derivation.
6. Omit h in -burgh; as, Harrisburg.
7. Scripture names as in Revized Version.
8. Omit apostrophe in such names as St. Marys, St. Catharines.
9. Wordlist: adz, altho, ax, ay (yes), aye (ever), by and by, by-law, carbid, chlorin, etc., etc.

Rules and wordlist may be enlarged within the limits of the wordlist in Appendix to this report.

The Appendix was four pages dubl-column giving two or more fórms of words in more comon use. It was prefaced by "Examiners ar to accept either form." It gave behind-the-age peopl a chance to supersede rule 2 above by "Retain u in -our, as *honour*." They had the option of making what rules they chose. This very tolerant or optional method the committee tho't preferabl, hoping that "the comonsens of most" wud lead aright.

When this report came up for adoption in April last, before a ful meeting, the consensus of those presnt was decidedly against having dubl or tripl forms before them, wishing *one* definitely prescribed. So the report was referd bak to a committee increast by adition of Messrs. Macalister, Gray (Toronto), Musgrave (Wingham) and Jordan (Prescot). They alterd the report, stil more amended in committee-of-all. Rules 5 and 6 wer dropt, and the appendix reduced to a list of about 300 words all coverd by the last rule above. Thus amended, this report of the Public Scool section shud come up before the ful As'n.

THE HERALD is publisht (with misionary object) in Jan., April, July, Oct., at 57 Harbord St., Toronto, Canada. SUBSCRIBE AND DISTRIBUTE in leters, in scools, privatly in a hundred ways. 8 copis to one adress 25 cents a year in advance; 20 copis, 50 cents; 45 copis, \$1; 100 copis, \$2. Issues for a past year, 10 c. Foren stamps taken. Yur influence to extend circulation is solicited.