

were very pointed and clear. Inspector Macdonald held that learning the letters hindered rather than helped the child. He instanced the word c-a-t the letters of which have no connection with the sounds.

Dr. Calkin adduced numerous instances to show that the phonic method gave the child power to read for himself by finding out new words.

Principal Soloan said the phonic method produced a clearer articulation and enunciation, and it made the child a discoverer in the paths of language and literature.

Inspector Campbell would never begin by teaching the letters of the alphabet. In reference to supplementary reading he thought the child should have three or four books to read in addition to the prescribed primary text. This was very generally endorsed.

Miss Masters, Brookfield, thought that language should be taught through the reading lessons.

Principal Marshall, Dr. Carter, Principal O'Hearn, Inspector MacIntosh and others followed in the discussion which was continued in the second day's proceedings when the report was adopted.

On the evening of August 31st Principal Cumming of the Agricultural College gave an admirable address on the teacher's opportunities to help boys and girls secure a training that would fit them for life. "Principal Cumming" said Dr. MacKay in introducing him "is the right man in the right place." He is certainly doing great things for agriculture and natural science in Nova Scotia.

The most of Wednesday evening was devoted to the Report of the Teachers' Union, President Creelman presiding. The secretary, Principal Smith, gave a detailed statement of the work of the last two years. It was made clear that several teachers had been relieved from embarrassing situations and that the moral influence exerted by the Union had prevented many irate parents from precipitate action against teachers.

In an admirable address President Creelman asked the teachers to act together in preventing underbidding and in securing reasonable salaries. Much enthusiasm was evoked and there were many additions to the membership, several of them being life members.

After the adoption of the Reading and English Language Section of the course, the history and geography portion was taken up. Dr. Calkin read a valuable paper on geography, and after some dis-

cussion the report was adopted. That on Arithmetic, of which Principal G. K. Butler was chairman, was referred back to the committee for further elaboration, the material being considered too brief.

Dr. A. H. MacKay, whom Dr. Carter aptly termed the "Nestor" of Canadian superintendents of education, was appointed the delegate of the Association to bring the matter of a uniform and low-priced series of text-books before the next meeting of the Dominion Educational Association, to meet next year in Montreal.

Five speakers held the attention for more than two hours on Thursday evening of the large audience gathered in the assembly hall of the Normal college, where all the sessions of the Association were held—Principal Sexton, Mrs. Stead, Capt. Borden, Dr. Blackadar and Dr. Hay.

Principal Sexton of the Technical College, Halifax, spoke of the Vitalization of the Public Schools. In a clear, graphic and happy way he traced the growth of education in the United States and Nova Scotia, and illustrated how schools, teachers and text-books may be fitted more closely into the industrial life of the country. Mrs. Stead, of Halifax, in her address on Musical Training gave an admirable illustration in her own clear and well modulated voice of some happy results of that training. Capt. A. H. Borden, of Halifax, our leader of physical training in schools, dwelt on its excellent effects in giving a proper poise to the physical bearing and character of our boys and girls. He won the hearty applause of the majority of his audience by declaring that women could learn the practice of physical training quite as readily as men. Dr. Blackadar claimed that character was the all important product of the schools and urged that religion should be taught. Dr. G. U. Hay referred to the happy results that must follow from the wise expenditure of money by the Nova Scotia government to stimulate technical and agricultural education.

During the last day's session Principals McKittrick and Lay were unanimously re-appointed to the Advisory Board.

Dr. Calkin, ex-principal of the Normal college, who had been a member of the Association for fifty years, was appointed an honorary member, for which he returned suitable thanks.

The nature-study course was discussed by Prof. Shaw, Dr. Calkin and Dr. Soloan, who strongly