

devoted to school visiting. Hence the more successful and popular as a professional man the less efficient and useful as a superintendent. Let it not be supposed that all persons holding this position were inefficient. There have been many worthy exceptions,—men thoroughly competent, conscientious, and devoted to their work; and it is gratifying to know that special provision has been made in the law to render these eligible for appointment to the office of Inspector without further examination. In order to supply a remedy, this Association, on more occasions than one, recommended that all superintendents should possess, at least, the qualification of first-class teachers, combined with practical experience in teaching, and that appointments should be made for counties instead of townships. By the late School Act and the regulations based on it, these recommendations have been fully carried out. School Inspectors are now to be selected from among the highest grade of practical teachers only. It is unnecessary further to enumerate the provisions of the recent statute. Nearly all the important changes introduced have been recommended by teachers themselves. The utmost readiness has been shown by the Legislature, the Chief Superintendent of Education, and the Council of Public Instruction, to listen to the suggestions of the Ontario Teachers' Association. If the results should prove unsatisfactory we have ourselves to blame. Altogether the result of our labours has been highly satisfactory. Let us not suppose, however, that our mission is accomplished. This Association has now a definite part to perform in the great work of education, which can be done by it alone. A few years ago its utility was considered doubtful and its success uncertain; now its existence has become almost a necessity. But let not the good that has already been accomplished induce us to relax our efforts; let it rather encourage us to put forth renewed exertions. Every man owes something to his profession besides a certain amount of labour for which he receives pay. There may be callings more honoured, but there are none more honourable than that of the teacher. The foreign foe that invades our shores is not more to be dreaded than the ignorance that lurks in our midst; and the military hero that defends us from the one deserves not better from his country than he who rids us of the other. The faithful devoted teacher is a true patriot. It is not by whining and complaining about want of respect that teachers can hope to secure their proper position. They must be true to themselves. Let them but respect their calling and it will command the respect of others. The man makes the position respectable, and not the position the man. Now more than ever a feeling of harmony and good will exists among our members. A disposition to unite more closely together is everywhere apparent. Our past history affords ground for satisfaction and thankfulness. Let us hope that a career of still greater usefulness is before us. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Anderson.

EXAMINATION PAPERS.

Mr. S. WOODS, of Kingston, complained of the papers sent out by the Board of Examiners. After some remarks, in which he severely criticised Dr. Davies' Grammar, he moved that the Central Board of Examiners shall, in future, be composed of a committee of Public School Inspectors. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCALLUM. After some further conversation, Mr. BUCHAN moved an amendment to the effect that, while approving of many of the examination papers sent up by the Central Committee, the Association would wish to ask that, in future, the useless technicalities of particular text books be omitted; and that, in future, the papers bear the names of the individual examiners preparing them. Mr. SEATH seconded the amendment. Mr. HUSBAND moved in amendment to the amendment, that the Executive Committee of the Teachers' Association appointed for the purpose of preparing examination papers, be composed exclusively of those who have been teachers in Public Schools, and that such Boards be composed of three persons. Mr. WOOD closed the debate, after which, the motion was withdrawn, and so were the amendments it called forth. Mr. ANDERSON then moved that the Association highly approve of the general plan of examinations of the Public School teachers now in operation throughout the Province, being in accordance with the views frequently expressed by this Association. He would suggest that, in the future, each paper bear the name of the public examiner preparing it.—Carried.

SPELLING AND ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

Mr. HODGSON read an introductory paper on these two important subjects. Amongst other practical suggestions, the paper recommended that the practice of spelling with syllables should be followed; and that, in grammar, the analytical method should be tried. Mr. R. LEWIS, of Toronto, held that, as spelling was for the purpose of enabling a person to write correctly, instead of to

speak, it should not be taught so much orally, as by writing a portion of each reading lesson. He had adopted this plan in his school, and had found the results to be highly satisfactory. With regard to grammar, he was of opinion that it should be taught as little as possible from the book, and very much by practice in writing, composition, &c. Mr. H. I. STRANG said that it was his custom to give to his scholars sentences to write from dictation. He then marked the words they misspelled, and made lists of them. These lists he gave to the scholars, and required them to study the words of which they were composed more particularly than the other words in the sentence he had dictated. Mr. ARCHIBALD McCOLLUM, of Hamilton, approved of the plan of requiring words to be spelled in syllables. He was of opinion that the study of grammar might advantageously be left off until the reasoning powers were pretty well developed; but he held with Mr. LEWIS, that pupils should be required to commence the writing of composition at an early period of their school career. Mr. SCARLETT agreed with Mr. LEWIS, that the pupils should be required to learn to spell from writing. Mr. LEWIS remarked that this was the Prussian system, and it had proved very satisfactory. Mr. SCARLETT would give pupils in the first book short lessons, and require them to write down every word; and in the more advanced books he would require the pupils to write down the more difficult of the words in their lessons. He thought that pupils should be required to commence the study of grammar orally very young, and he considered it a good plan to cause students in grammar to write something on some object shown them by the teacher, and then submit it for correction.

RECEPTION OF DELEGATES.

Mr. MILLER, a delegate from the Teachers' Association of the County of Huron; Mr. JOHNSTON and Mr. SCARLETT, from the Association of Northumberland; Mr. CURRIE and Mr. PLATT, from the Association of Prince Edward; and Mr. FRASER, from the Association of Oxford, were received, and generally gave very gratifying reports of the operations of the Associations they represented.

UNION OF GRAMMAR SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Convention then took up the report of the Committee on Union, who therein recommended:—1st. That the Societies lately known under the names of the Ontario Teachers' Association and the Ontario Grammar Schoolmasters' Association be united under the name of the Ontario Teachers' Association. 2nd. That the Association have three different sections, representing respectively, 1st, Teachers in High Schools; 2ndly, Inspectors; 3rdly, Public School Teachers. 3rd. That in all subjects pertaining to education generally, the Association shall act unitedly, both in discussing and deciding upon such subjects. 4th. That subjects pertaining specially to any one or two of the sections mentioned in the second clause, shall be discussed by the members of all sections, but that the decision of the subject shall rest alone with the section or sections particularly interested. 5th. That, in the event of any dispute regarding the class in which any specified subjects may be included, the decision be made by a majority of the Board of Directors present, and that such decision be final. 6th. That there be three standing committees, corresponding to the three sections mentioned in the second clause, and that the composition of the committees shall be as follows:—1. High School Committee, consisting of four High School teachers and one member selected from either of the other two sections; 2. Committee of Inspectors, consisting of four Inspectors and one member selected from either of the other two sections; 3. Public School Committee, consisting of four masters of Public Schools and one member selected from either of the other two sections. 7th. That in case of any sudden emergency necessitating prompt action on the part of any of the sections, the President of the Association, on the written application of at least two members of the standing committee for such section, shall call a special meeting of the committee for the aforesaid section, and that in the event of the President refusing or neglecting to call such meeting, the committee, or a majority of the committee have full power to meet at the call of their chairman, and to take action upon the subject as specified. The first and second clauses were adopted *nem. con.* In the third clause the words "in one body" were substituted for "unitedly." The fourth and fifth clauses elicited considerable discussion, but were finally adopted without amendment. The sixth clause was adopted *nem. con.* The seventh clause was adopted without amendment, after considerable discussion.