

He was not a regularly appointed delegate—for the fact was none had been appointed. Though the Superintendent there had promised to call a Convention, he had not done so, owing, no doubt, to his having been engaged in other business—a drawback felt, it was said, in other localities also. He was a grain buyer, and also a candidate for Parliamentary honors—and too much occupied to call the Convention. Mr. Watson, of York, though not a regularly appointed delegate, was heard. The record of the Association there, had not been, he said, a good one, but he would endeavour to get up a flourishing Association.

The following resolution was received from the Grammar School Board of Trustees of Newcastle:—

Resolved,—That in the opinion of this Board the decision of the Chief Superintendent, in reference to the distinction made between boys and girls in Grammar Schools, would be very injurious to these schools in rural places, and will have a tendency to destroy their usefulness."

PROVINCIAL CERTIFICATES.

It was moved by Mr. E. B. Harrison, seconded by Mr. D. Johnson, "That the 3rd clause of the 2nd sec. of the proposed new school act, be modified that no provincial certificates be granted to teachers by County Boards, but by a Provincial Board; and as that part of the proposed change is not in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Teacher's Association for Upper Canada—vide minutes of the fifth annual meeting, page 12—this Association hereby reaffirms the said resolution, and that a committee be appointed to confer with the Chief Superintendent of education on this subject." The resolution referred to is as follows:—"It is expedient and necessary for the advancement of education among us, to discontinue County and Circuit Boards of Public Instruction as now constituted and appoint Superintendents (or Government Inspectors) who have been at least first-class Common School teachers, or Grammar School teachers, to be nominated by the County Council appointed by the Council of Public Instruction for each County of Ontario—three or five of such Superintendents forming such Central Board of Examiners to grant certificates to teachers in their respective circuits, limiting such certificates to the county or township, according to their judgment, or making them valid for the whole circuit—and to require each Board to elect, annually or otherwise, one of its members to act in their behalf as a Central Board of Examiners, formed of such elective Superintendents having power to grant Provincial certificates to such teachers as they find qualified, and who have already satisfied the Local Boards of their ability to teach, and be recommended by them to this Central Board. Mr. Harrison and Mr. Johnson addressed the Association in support of the motion. The latter in the course of his remarks, alluded to the following statement of the Chief Superintendent in his last report, who, speaking of the proposition, that the County Board shall consist of six, appointed by the Governor in Council, out of twelve recommended by each County Council,—say the appointment by Provincial authority is proposed, not to secure a better selection than would probably otherwise be made, but because the certificates when given shall be of Provincial extension and value. In order to this it is proposed that the questions for examination shall be prepared by a Committee of practical teachers appointed by the Council of Public Instruction, and be the same for all the counties, transmitted under seal to the chairman of each County Board and not to be opened till the meeting of the Board. The answers to the more difficult questions will also be transmitted. The first class certificates awarded will be valid throughout Upper Canada, and during good behaviour, instead of such certificates as now being limited to a county or circuit, and to one or two years. *This has been desired by the Teachers' Association for Upper Canada, and is justly regarded as a great boon to the teachers, and calculated to elevate their profession.* Mr. Dixon said that all the speakers and members, with the exception of Mr. Chestnut, found fault with Dr. Ryerson for making the italicised and succeeding portion of the statement, and said emphatically that the Dr. had no authority from the Association to make the assertion, and so far from regarding it as a "great boon" and calculated to "elevate the profession," they were convinced that it would be far otherwise. Mr. Chestnut thought that the Chief Superintendent was justified in making the assertion, owing to the statement made to him by a Committee of members of the Association. The chairman, Mr. Johnson, and a number of other speakers said that if anything of the kind had been represented to Dr. Ryerson, it had been unauthorized, and those making it had betrayed their trust in so doing. A good deal of discussion ensued, and a division was taken on the motion, when Mr. McGann and Mr. Chestnut entered protests against the ruling of the Chair and the adoption of the resolution.

THE LATE HEAD MASTER OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The following resolution of condolence was submitted from a special committee:—"That the members of this Association having

heard, with deep regret, of the death of Thos. J. Robertson, Esq., M.A., late Head Master of the Normal School and first President of this Association, would take this, the first fitting opportunity, of recording their high appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered to the cause of education throughout the Province, and also of expressing their heartfelt sympathy with his bereaved family in the great loss which, in the Providence of God, they have been called on to sustain."—Carried.

Mr. R. Alexander, seconded by Mr. J. R. Miller, moved, that in view of the great services rendered to the cause of education by the late lamented Head Master of the Normal School, Mr. T. J. Robertson, M.A., it is the opinion of this Convention that some public recognition of his valuable labours should be made, and that for the carrying out of such a purpose the following gentlemen be the committee appointed; Dr. Carlyle and Mr. McAllister, Secretaries; Dr. Sangster, Treasurer; with Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Rev. Dr. Wickson, Rev. Dr. Jennings, Rev. H. J. Grasett and J. George Hodgins as a Central Committee, with power to form such Committees wherever they may consider necessary. Carried.

TEXT BOOKS.

Mr. H. Reazin, seconded by Mr. C. Neville, moved, "that in the opinion of this Convention a uniform series of text-books is desirable; that many text books at present in use in the schools of Ontario, particularly those on English Grammar and Reading, are very defective and entirely unworthy of being placed by the Council of Public Instruction in the list of revised text books for this Province; and that a committee, consisting of Messrs. McCabe, Scarlett, Dixon, Kirkland and Reazin, be appointed to examine thoroughly the most approved books on English Grammar and other subjects not already disposed of, with a view of recommending the most suitable works on these subjects to the Council of Public Instruction, and that the committee report at the next meeting of this Convention." In speaking to this motion, Mr. Reazin dwelt on the great importance of securing for their schools the very best educational works, and displacing many of those at present in use, which were contradictory and crude. He alluded to the tendency of modern grammarians to substitute logic, under the form of analysis, for English grammar. Logic he thought to be beyond the capacities of children; and while he approved of a moderate use of analysis, he would unhesitatingly condemn its total substitution for English Grammar. After some debate, Mr. Hodgson, seconded by Mr. Watson, moved That while it is very desirable to have a uniform series of text books, this Convention deems it premature at the present time to say what shall be the books to be used in our schools, as it is understood that text books on various subjects are on the eve of publication, the merits of which cannot be decided previous to their publication.—Carried.

BELGIAN AND QUEBEC REPRESENTATIVES.

The President invited Mr. Leve, Belgian Consul at New York, and delegate of the Board of Public Instruction of Belgium, upon the platform, and introduced him to the convention. He (the President) said that the distinguished visitor was as welcome upon that occasion as his fellow countrymen were in the mother country, when they visited it recently. (Applause).

Mr. Leve replied in a neat speech, in which he expressed the pleasure he experienced in having that opportunity of being present he was equally pleased with the advanced state in which he found education in Canada, and he would be glad to communicate frequently with the association.

Prof. Grahame, of St. Francis College, Quebec, was next introduced by the President, and delivered a very lengthy and interesting address, reviewing generally the subjects which had been before the Association at its present session, and giving many valuable suggestions. At the close of the address, a vote of thanks was passed to Principal Grahame, and that gentleman was made an honorary member of the Association on motion of Mr. Alexander.

VISIT TO UNIVERSITY.—DR. JEFFERS' ADDRESS.

In the afternoon the members of the Association accepted the invitation of Dr. McCaul and visited the University.

Rev. W. Jeffers, D.D., then addressed the Convention at length, on the relations of the teachers to the school system of Canada. A vote of thanks was tendered to the reverend gentleman at the close of his address.

ANNUAL CONVERSAZIONE.

The teachers' annual conversazione took place last evening in the theatre of the Normal School building, a very large audience being present. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, who commenced the evening's proceedings about eight o'clock. He delivered an interesting address upon education, dwelling with much energy upon those points suggested by the changes and improve-