

until it was incorporated. He deprecated useless discussions, and thought their attention should be mainly directed to endeavouring to obtain a better status for the teachers. Mr. McMurchy replied to the remarks of Mr. Chesnut in an able speech. He contended that the association was doing a great work, and its numbers and influence were constantly increasing. It had been the means of obtaining changes in the school laws, and through its representations many modifications had been introduced into the school system. The association exercised considerable weight with the Council of Public Instruction; and with regard to its incorporation, the subject had been discussed for years, and a committee was now considering it. The right had been conceded to school-teachers in Scotland to a seat at the Education Board in Edinburgh, a body of a similar character to our Council of Public Instruction; but owing to the instigation, he believed, of certain English peers, that right had been now withdrawn. He was sorry for this, but it was absurd to suppose that the association exercised no influence. It was quietly working on, and by getting a peg in here and one there, they would soon be enabled to exercise that influence, and attain to that position, to which they were entitled. The subject then dropped.

REPORTS OF DELEGATES.

The reports of Delegates were then presented. The reports generally showed that the County Teachers' Associations were in a most flourishing condition throughout Ontario. Messrs. Yeoman and Platt, of Prince Edward; Messrs. Strong and Harvey, of North Grey; Mr. Scarlett, of Northumberland; Mr. King, of Waterloo, Mr. Stratton, of Peterborough; and Mr. Watson, of Township of York, each addressed the meeting, pointing out the great desirability of each school teacher in the Province joining the association of the county in which he was located. Mr. Chesnut asked that some of the delegates should give the members of the Convention some idea of the proportion of teachers in their several counties who had already joined the Association. Mr. King said that in Waterloo, out of fifty schools, there were 35 who had become members. Mr. Harvey stated that in Prince Edward they had eighty schools, and that fifty out of the number had joined their County Association. Mr. Scarlett, of Northumberland, said in that county, out of the 120 schools in it, they had 80 on the books of the Association. Mr. Stratton, of Peterboro', said he could not show so large a proportion in his county as many of the other delegates had done for theirs, as they had many difficulties to contend with—bad roads and distance from outlying districts being the principal ones; but out of 81 schools, and a probable membership of 56, they could be sure of 33 names. Mr. Watson, of the Township of York, said there were 50 schools in the West Riding of York, and 25 teachers had joined the Association of the Township. He had at one time endeavoured to make the meetings of the Association moveable, so as to accommodate those who resided in distant parts of the township, but he had come to the conclusion that it was best to have one fixed place of assembly, and Weston had been decided upon as being the most central point. Mr. Harvey, of Grey, said that there were fifty schools in his county, and out of that number twenty-five teachers had been enrolled on the list of the Association. After some conversation upon the matter, in which most of the delegates took part, the subject dropped.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

Mr. Stratton, of Peterboro', in alluding to causes militating against attendance at County Conventions, and in answer to a question, said that small salaries, in some districts, had prevented some teachers from being present, as in many cases they had to travel from fifty to seventy miles, bearing their own expenses, which was too much to expect from them, their salaries, in some instances, being as low as \$150 per annum, although in some more favored sections of the county a good teacher received \$500 to \$600. To another question asked, Mr. Stratton said that in every case teachers boarded themselves.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Mr. McMurchy, on behalf of the Grammar School Masters, reported, stating that he regretted the absence of the Convener of the Committee, who was absent in consequence of severe family affliction; and only being made aware that Mr. Strauchon could not be present a day or two ago, he was not at all prepared to present to the Convention such a report as he would have liked, or the importance of the subject demanded:—"The Committee would direct the attention of the Convention to a few points in connection with the law affecting Grammar Schools. The great want of the law is that it does not provide adequately for the support of the Grammar Schools. This weakness has been acknowledged by the school authorities, and efforts have been made to remedy the defect. The remedy proposed by the Chief Superintendent is contained in the

Bills which were before the Legislature last year and the year before, viz.: That the people either elect all the Trustees (Bill of 1868-69), or elect part of them (Bill of 1869-70.) Your Committee would recommend that the following proviso be added to section 2:—"Provided further, that from such elected Trustees a Committee shall be appointed by said Trustees, to constitute with the appointed members a body, whose duty it shall be to take due care for the proper management of the High School." Your Committee also would respectfully urge on the school authorities the importance of including the results of the work done by any school in the apportionment of the Government Grant." After some discussion upon the report, it was decided to refer it again to the Committee, in order that some points, which were not explained fully, might be reported upon. It was then moved by Mr. Chesnut, seconded by Mr. Stratton, "That the Committee to report on the work of Grammar Schools, &c., be instructed to examine the Grammar School Law and report separately any and all the suggestions they may have to make on the subject." The resolution was carried.

SCHOOLS IN POOR DISTRICTS.

Mr. Scarlett, in the course of a few remarks, said he thought the Legislature ought to do more in the shape of pecuniary assistance to the schools in poor sections of the country, than had hitherto been done. Several members of the Convention coincided with Mr. Scarlett's observations.

COMMITTEE OF INCORPORATION.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Committee of Incorporation, viz., Messrs. McCallum, Anderson, McMurchy, and Hodgson.

PLACE OF MEETING.

Mr. Chesnut moved, seconded by Mr. McMurchy, that the next annual Convention be held at Hamilton; but on the motion being put it was lost, an amendment to the effect that Toronto should still be the place of meeting being carried by a large majority.

VOTES OF THANKS.

It was moved by J. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Watson, that the thanks of this association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Council of Public Instruction for the use of the theatre in the Normal School during the session of this Convention; to the representatives of the city newspapers for their very excellent reports of the present meeting; and to the managers of the Great Western, Grand Trunk and Northern Railways for their kindness in granting return tickets to our members at reduced rates. The motion was carried *nem con.* On the motion of Mr. Yeomans, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, who acknowledged the compliment in suitable terms. This concluded the business of the Convention, which adjourned shortly before five o'clock.

PROFESSOR CROFT'S LECTURE.—In the evening Professor Croft gave a most interesting and instructive lecture, illustrated with some important experiments, in his lecture room, University College, under the auspices of the Teacher's Association. The President, Dr. Nelles, presided. The lecturer sketched the early history and subsequent development of the science. He greatly amused the audience with some of his experiments. At the conclusion, a resolution of thanks to the lecturer, moved by Mr. John S. King, seconded by Mr. Robert Alexander, was carried by acclamation.

I. Papers on Practical Education.

1. MUSIC IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

This subject is beginning to be more discussed, and no doubt music has claims to a larger place among school studies than it has hitherto occupied. The able address of Daniel B. Hagar, delivered before the Musical Convention at the Boston Music Hall, a few months since, has already excited a powerful influence in this direction, and inquiries are being made with regard to the best method of adopting the reforms which have been suggested. Without a doubt, music is the art which is most fostered among us, and parlors are not considered fully furnished that lack a piano. We are not only a music-loving people, but we are destined eventually to become a great musical nation. It is necessary, therefore, that we devise some means of educating, to this end, the rising generation. In Germany, no one can be a school teacher who has not a thorough knowledge of music, and that divine art there is taught, as here, in the common schools. We hope that it may soon be more generally taught among us; for its influence on physical development alone is one of the utmost importance, by tending to keep the lungs and vocal organs in a sound and vigorous condition. It is, however, in its moral power, that its especial excellence lies, and this is evident