

point discussed was the difficulty of teaching Canadian History, in addition to the other subjects, especially in the rural schools. In large rural schools it is almost impossible to give this important subject the attention it requires. It was decided that the subject be not made compulsory at the next examination.

The Treasurer was instructed to order a copy of the minutes of the Provincial Association for every member of this Association.

The afternoon session was devoted to practical work and partook of the nature of an institute meeting. Classes were supplied from the Model School, and the actual work of teaching fully illustrated.

The first subject was Primary Reading, and was dealt with by Miss Wootton. A primary lesson was actually given, the object of which was to illustrate the intellectual or word method. After seeing a lesson of this kind taught, we are tempted to wonder how we ever made any progress under the old system of the alphabet and the strap.

Miss Jones then took up the important subject, the Statement and Question to Primary Classes. The lesson was intended to show the necessity of teaching reading by means of full statements and questions. The object of this method is to teach expressive reading; to increase the power of the eye, by forcing it to take in a number of words at a glance, and indirectly to teach composition.

The next subject was exceedingly interesting, and was also dealt with by Miss Jones. A large class was placed on the floor and put through a set of calisthenic exercises. The pupils were drilled in movements adapted to the exercise of every muscle, intervals of rest being occupied by singing. Miss Jones succeeded in showing to the satisfaction of the Convention the absolute necessity of exercises of this kind. The publication of a book of instruction upon this subject seems to be badly needed.

The next subject was Geography by Miss McDermid, who taught an excellent lesson on the rivers of Europe. The subject was illustrated by a sketch of Europe on the blackboard, and the actual course of the rivers thus clearly shown.

Mr. W. Moore then showed his method of teaching Analysis to a junior class. His time was principally taken up with the modifications of the subject, and the lesson was practically illustrated upon the blackboard.

The last subject upon the afternoon programme was that of Word Building, and was treated by Mr. Grimmett. It consisted of a thorough explanation of the Phonic Methods of Teaching Reading, intended as a continuation of the word method. Mr. Grimmett

exhausted the subject, and was listened to with close attention.

In the evening a general discussion upon the methods illustrated during the afternoon was led by Mr. Mackintosh and was generally participated in.

FRIDAY.

After routine business, Mr. W. Clark, Head Master of the Model School, addressed the Convention upon the subject of Composition in Junior Classes. Mr. Clark insisted on the necessity of beginning to teach Composition, orally, to very young pupils, in fact the subject should be taught, indirectly, from the first. As soon as pupils can frame a sentence, they should be required to write it down, other written composition is begun without delay.

In the absence of Prof. Wright, of Belleville, who was to have addressed the Convention upon the subject of High School Entrance Examinations, Mr. Mackintosh took up Penmanship. He found some fault with the penmanship exhibited in many of the schools, attributing much of the failure to a slavish dependence on copy books. Under the method which Mr. Mackintosh illustrated, headline copy books would not be needed in most of the classes of a rural school.

The morning session was closed by a short, pithy address on Geography, by Mr. Boyle, who dealt with the teaching of the subject in a general way, and deprecated beginning with mathematical geography, which is the course pursued in our school geographies.

The afternoon session took the form of a public meeting, and there were present, besides a full attendance of teachers, a large number of trustees from various parts of the Inspectorate. A. F. Wood, Esq., M.P.P., presided, and in his opening address expressed his great interest in the question they were there to discuss, viz., the Introduction of a New Set of Readers. He had given the subject some consideration and hoped that the meeting would make a definite choice of one set only.

The Chairman then called upon the committee appointed to examine the different series to present their report. This was done by Mr. Morton, who moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. Grimmett.

The report recommended the adoption of the Royal Canadian series.

The report of the committee was carried unanimously. The chairman expressed his satisfaction at the decision.

The Secretary was then instructed to send a copy of the report to the Minister of Education, after which the Convention adjourned.