

4. That a school rate is impending and necessary, (such a rate as we already have).

5. That no child should receive wages who cannot read and write.

6. That an Act of Parliament should throw the onus of education on parents. One phrase, it is added, expresses all those opinions, and that phrase is compulsory education. "The voluntary principle," says one of the best friends of the Education Aid Society, "is being tested in a way it was never tested before and under the most favourable auspices. The promoters of the Society are volunteers in every respect except in the question of the parents. Here is an education provided, and the Society is now, as it were, at a stand because of the indifference and inertness of parents as to the education of their children." Of Toronto it might also be said that the education provided was by no means universally received. Mr. Porter then went on to quote some passages from "A plea for Compulsory Education"—a valuable paper read before the Scottish Central Association of Schoolmasters—which were, in his view, unanswerable. He also submitted some indications of public opinion on the same subject, in Britain and amongst ourselves. We can only give one of Mr. Porter's extracts. "I think it is a totally mistaken idea of liberty" (says Dr. Cairns, of Berwick, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on this point), "to leave everything to the lawlessness of the least instructed class of the parents of a country. In sanitary matters we take care that no man shall do as he pleases, if that pleasure seems likely to injure his neighbours health, and no one then talks of infringing the liberty of the subject; and as little ought we to allow our neighbour to grow up in ignorance and crime, to become both a moral and material pest to society around him, not only to promote, but also to perpetuate crime. We have (that is they have in Britain) compulsion as to vaccination as well as to the registration of births, marriages, and deaths, and in all these cases without complaint, and with the happiest results. Why not then also in relation to education? It would benefit the careless and now uncared for, while it would not affect the thoughtful who already discharge their duty, just as sanitary regulations bear only on the neglectful without annoying the already cleanly and provident." As to the way in which compulsion would best receive its illustration here, Mr. Porter was not prepared to say. Some will plead for direct compulsion in the form of fine or imprisonment for every parent who shall neglect to send to school any child of a certain age for a certain period of time; and in the shape of imprisonment and ordinary and industrial instruction in the case of every child convicted of incorrigible truancy from our public schools. Others would prefer the indirect form of an educational test. They would like to see the principle of the British Factory Act extended to all industrial pursuits in the field and shop, as well as the factory, so that no employer of labour should under a penalty receive into any stated regular employment any child, without restriction of age, who did not produce from a duly certified teacher, or other accredited authority, a certificate that the child's attainments in reading, writing, and arithmetic, were such as would be really serviceable to him in after life. Cases of sheer incapacity could, of course, be dealt with as exceptions. Mr. Porter also called attention to the last meeting of the British Social Science Congress, at which compulsory education was advocated by a long and able succession of speakers. The increasing degree of interest felt in compulsory education in Canada was manifest in many ways. In the *Journal of Education* for March, 1866, it is stated that of 40 County Conventions 34 (the annual report of the Chief Superintendent for 1865, since published, says 37) affirmed the principle of the duty of the State to render penal the neglect of parents to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded for the education of their children. In 1857 the City Board of Common School Trustees desired to call the attention of municipalities and of Parliament to a class of young persons who, in spite of parental authority and school discipline, were habitual absentees and truants, * * * and added, that nothing but the arm of the law can save them and protect society from the evils of ignorance and its attendant crime. Beyond the adoption of these opinions by the Board, the further action was taken in the matter. Mr. Porter's own opinion was, that until advanced legislation were had on this point, little, if anything, could be done. Perhaps, he continued, the only way in which we can at present promote the improvement of those wandering children who have not subjected themselves to restraint in the course of existing law, is by asking for the enactment of some law which shall deal with their ignorant and disordered condition as itself a species of crime, less indeed their own than that of their parents and guardians. But whatever might be done by force of law to secure proper school attendance, there will still be not a little left by Christian philanthropy to undertake in aiding the cleansing, clothing and feeding, and providing with indispensable school requisites, of not a few children who, without such assistance, would be scarcely able to attend school for even a few hours a day. A

vote of thanks was passed to Rev. Mr. Porter for his excellent address.

EXCLUSION OF GIRLS FROM GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Mr. Kirkland, by invitation of the directors, read an interesting paper on the topic—"Should girls be recognized as pupils in our Grammar Schools?" In this paper Mr. Kirkland cited Scotland and the United States as being the countries in which a system of mixed instruction had been carried into effect with the best results; and it was his belief that the managers and masters of all the chief mixed schools of Canada were unanimously in favour of that system, as one which had been attended with the most satisfactory results. Various speakers having addressed the Convention.

At the close of Mr Kirkland's address the question was discussed at some length by several members belonging to Grammar Schools—all of whom spoke strongly in favour of having girls admitted as pupils on the same terms as boys, to the Grammar School. The following resolutions on the subject were then unanimously passed:—Mr. J. B. Dixon moved, seconded by Mr. B. Scarlett, "That the true civilization and enlightenment of a country depends to a great extent on the mental and moral culture and refinement of the females of that country; therefore, in the opinion of this convention any scheme that would prevent girls from attending our grammar schools on terms of perfect equality with boys, would be a step in the wrong direction, and subversive of the best interests of our new and prosperous country, and that the proposed virtual exclusion of girls appears to be too hasty, as they have not a fair trial since the passage of the new Grammar School Act. Dr. Crowle moved, seconded by Mr. Strauchon, grammar school, Woodstock, "That this association views with regret the manner in which the Government grant for the past year has been distributed to grammar schools, as it appears from the *Journal of Education* of May last, in which it is stated that the apportionment has not been made this year on the basis of boys' attendance only, but fifty per cent. of average attendance of girls has also been reckoned; provided they were engaged in the grammar school programme of classical studies; and regards it as a direct violation of the seventh clause of the new Grammar School Act (29 Vic. cap. 23) which enacts, 'That the apportionment payable half-yearly to the grammar schools shall be made to each school conducted according to law upon the basis of the daily average attendance at such grammar school of pupils in the programme of studies prescribed according to law for grammar schools; such attendance shall be certified by the head master, and verified by the inspector of grammar schools.'" Mr. Young moved, seconded by Mr. Tamblin, "That a special committee composed of Mr. McCabe, vice-president, Mr. McMurchy, secretary, and Messrs. Hodgson, Dixon and Kirkland be appointed to press the Chief Superintendent and the Council of Public Instruction, and to take such other steps as they may deem advisable to carry out the wishes of the association on the subject." See note on this subject on page 162.

COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Mr. R. S. Miller, of Kent, reported on the position of a newly organized Association in his district—the Thames Association. The Association numbered 20, and promised well. Mr. McKellar, delegate from the County of Huron, spoke of the progress of his Association, which after three years had numbered 50 member, and was prospering. Mr. Bräbner, of the County of Lambton Association, six years old—said that they met half-yearly. Mr. J. B. McGann, gave an account of the proceedings of the County of Wentworth Association, which had gone on very well. Pecuniarily the Association prospered—they had greatly increased the interest in education, and had, altogether, accomplished much for the cause. Mr. Brown, of Northumberland, stated that at one session of the Association there, 85 members had answered to their names out of 125 schools. The cause of this great attendance was in a large measure due to the efforts of their County Superintendent. Mr. Alexander spoke of the North York Association, in existence about a year and a-half. He showed the working of the Association, and stated they were twenty or thirty in number, and financially were prosperous. Mr. Bell, Delegate from Northumberland, spoke of the success of the Association in that district. It had been long in existence, and was one for which the County Superintendent had done much. Mr. Hodgson said he was glad to hear the remarks of the last speaker, and felt that great good could be effected by the appointment of County Superintendents generally. Rev. Mr. Blair, Superintendent of Durham Convention, hoped in course of time that they would be able to rival Northumberland. The Rev. gentleman took occasion to urge that the County Conventions would be greatly promoted by proper arrangement for the accommodation of members, more especially ladies, who could not be expected to attend and put up at hotels. Mr. Young, of Prince Edward County, spoke of the progress there, saying that he hoped before next year they would have a flourishing Convention there,