ONTARIO TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Second Day.

WEDNESDAY, August 15.

The Association re-assembled at two o'clock, Mr. J. H. Smith in the chair. Mr. Archibald Macallum opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the previous day were read and approved of.

It was moved by J. R. MILLER, seconded by D. J. McKINNON, "That a committee of five be appointed by this Association to consider and report upon the whole question of Township Boards, as well as upon the distribution of the legislative and municipal grants, and the regulation of taxation under the present sectional system, said Committee to consist of Messrs. McQueen, Dearness, and Tilley, with the mover and seconder of the resolution." The mover explained that, as the Township Board system was not likely to be adopted, the present sectional system should be made as just and effective as possible. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

A paper was read by

MR. JOHN M. MORAN on the subject of "Uniform Promotion Examinations in Public Schools." In explaining the nature of the subject, the speaker said that it implied a uniform examination for the various grades in the schools of a county. Such examinations would prove eminently successful. In the first place they would introduce a system of grading far superior to a method of classifying pupils according to attainments in single subjects, as in reading, arithmetic, &c. These examinations would form the proper basis of classification. The system would intermediate the schools to activity, bringing about a result similar to that which has been effected by the High School entrance and intermediate examinations. Another reason in favour of the system is that a proper interest would be kept up in the progress of Public School education. There was noticable at the present time a lack of interest by parents in the welfare of public schools. In counties, however, where there were uniform examinations, the case was different. In these places the avidity with which the local papers containing the prize lists were bought up was surprising. This was a proof of the manifest interest that was excited by the system, as well in the case of parents as of scholars. The system was also practicable. A certain amount of money was indeed necessary. This, however, could be obtained from the County Council, through the application of the Inspector. The main difficulty to the institution of the system was this: regard difficulty in procuring sufficient funds. In the County of Wellington, said the speaker, no trouble was experienced in obtaining a grant from the County Council, and he thought that the other counties would be found as liberal as it. Another drawback to introducing the system was the great labour which would be imposed on the one or two individuals to whom the superintendence of the examinations was entrusted. Besides preparing, printing, and distributing the examination papers, it would devolve on them to go through and examine the papers of the whole number of school children in the county—perhaps on an average 12,000 or more. This disadvantage, the greatest perhaps of all, was far more than counter-balanced by the progress that the schools would make. The speaker said he had brought the question before the Association to get the feeling of members on it. The subject of instituting uniform Provincial examination, might be discussed. They would be a means of saving both money and time as well as affording a comparison of all the schools in the Province, which would have a much greater effect than the comparison of the schools of one county only. If such a system was adopted the preparation of the examination papers and superintendence of the examinations would be left to the Local Associations. Furthermore this would afford a means of distributing the school grants on a basis of promotion, which would have a tendency to stimulate the schools, and produce such a result as had taken place in the working of High Schools.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Moran for his treatment of the subject.

MR. A. MILLER, Walkerton, said that the uniform system of examinations would be a means of enforcing promotion from one examination on the scholars, who by so doing would prepare themselves for passing the general examinations.

MR. BARNES said the system had been in operation in Durham for three years, and had been a decided success in stimulating the schools of the county. The labour that had to be expended was amply repaid by the beneficial result produced. He would like to see competitive examinations established in every county of the Province.

MR. D. J. MCKINNON referred to the difficulty that would be experienced in the uniform examinations from want of school accommodation for conducting them. He did not think a Provincial system was practicable, but the union of three or four counties for the purposes of promoting examinations could be easily effected. He liked the idea of the distribution of the Government grants according to promotion, but he considered it a question for a future date.

MR. ROBINSON, Whitby, complained of the country being legislated for in regard to education. He was opposed to the adoption of uniform examinations by the Public Schools and the distribution of Legislative grants according to results. The system imposed too much labour on teachers and pupils. He made a strong protest against the modern system of educating the young people of the country to death.

MR. E. SCARLETT favoured the system as one that would lay open the ability of the various teachers.

MR. O'BRIEN objected to the system on the ground that it overburdened—at children and with work.

MR. A. MACALLUM wanted to know how many children had been injured by overstudy. How many had the last speaker followed to the grave?

MR. O'BRIEN said that he did not know of having followed any, but he could not tell what germs of disease had been sown and which might have ultimately become developed.

MR. MACALLUM spoke in favour of the uniform promotion examinations, and highly recommended its adoption.

MR. J. R. MILLER, Goderich, referred to the working of the system in his school with most favourable results. He had no doubt that the position of his school to-day was owing to the system of competitive examinations.

MR. JOHN MILLER, St. Thomas, said the system would find out the lazy teachers and those without energy.

MR. RICHARD LEWIS could not see how the labours of the children were to be increased by examinations. The system of examinations in the schools of Toronto was cited a desire in the minds of parents to have their children prepared for the examinations.

MR. J. C. BROWN, Peterborough, referred to the inefficiency of the present method of holding examinations. In Public Schools were to succeed some such method as the one under discussion was necessary.

MR. TAMBYN, Oshawa, objected to the distribution of school grants by results. It so much unfairness was observed in this respect in the one hundred High Schools, what would be the injustice perpetuated in dealing with the four thousand Public Schools of the Province?

MR. D. J. MCKINNON wished to obtain the feeling of the meeting on the question.

MR. HOUSER recommended the Committee to be cautious as to what powers were entered into. Last year the person who acted as financial agent did not succeed in arrangements with the railway company, and the Committee were sued for the money. He did not seem for Public Schools would not have enjoyed themselves so well as they did.

The Committee was then elected as follows:—Messrs. Dawson, Monroe, Miller, Johnston, Tilley, Scarlett, Kirkland, Dr. McLellan, and Dr. May.

MR. J. R. MILLER reported that the Audit Committee had examined the books and had found the accounts correct.

MR. DAWSON, who attended the Convention of the Protestant Teachers' Association of Quebec, related his experience at this Convention. He commended the energy of the teachers there, and expressed the opinion that the lower Province was not ripe, and probably would not be ripe for many years, for a non-sectarian system of education. There were over one hundred teachers present; he was very much pleased at the interest that was taken in the Convention, which was not confined to the city of Quebec generally. He found that the Quebec Convention was in the habit of changing the location of the Convention every year. The system worked admirably, and he thought it would more interest would be made in Ontario Convention if it adopted the same system. Another good feature in the Quebec Convention was its being held in October, at a time when teachers were not on their vacation. Teachers as a rule did not like to break into their vacation to attend the Convention, but they did not mind leaving their schools for a few days. (Laughter). Thanking those present for the patient hearing which had been accorded him, he took his seat.

MR. MCQUEEN, of Kirkwall, read the report of the Committee on the Distribution of Municipal and Legislative Grants, Township Boards, and Equalization of Assessment. The report was as follows:—

DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL GRANTS.

I. That in addition to the present legislative grant to Public Schools the Government should give to every section entitled to a school-house a certificated teacher the sum of $10, and to every section engaging a first-class Provincial certificated teacher the sum of $20; and that the municipality in which such teachers are employed be required to grant to each section so employing them a sum equal to the amount granted by the Government.

II. That the legislative and municipal grants to townships be discontinued, and that in lieu thereof grants to incorporated villages be made in order that the present unequal distribution may be remedied, and that they be apportioned on basis of average attendance in the said incorporated division.

TOWNSHIP BOARDS.

I. That it shall be the duty of the chairman of every annual meeting held in each school section, to take a vote of the ratepayers then present on the matter of the establishment of a Township Board, and that a special meeting may be called at any time during the year to reconsider and decide upon the question, and that in all cases the matter shall be decided by a majority vote in a majority of the sections in the municipality.

II. That in the organization of every new municipality provision be made for the institution of the Township Board system in the management of its school affairs.

EQUALIZATION OF TAXATION.

That in order to equalize taxation the system of Township Boards may not be adopted, the following amendments to the present Act are proposed:

I. That the Municipal Council of each township be empowered to levy an equal school rate upon all the taxable property of the municipality, and to pay therefrom each year to the trust of trustees of each section an amount equal to at least two-thirds of the average salary of teachers in such municipality during the year then last past.

II. That sections in which no teachers then one are employed shall be entitled to receive a grant equal to two-thirds of the proportional grant for each assistant employed.

III. That each union school section shall receive from each of the municipalities out of which they may be formed, a proportionate share of the ordinary school grant for such municipality, based upon the average assessment of the school sections which shall unite such municipalities to the school section equalized according to the assessment.

MR MCALLISTER moved, seconded by Mr. Alexander, that the report be received and printed in the minutes.

Mr. J. H. KNIGHT moved in amendment that the matter be considered after the election of officers and the address of Dr. Tassie.

The amendment was carried.

Mr. HOUSER reported from the committee appointed to confer with the Ministers of Education with a view to securing the establishment of a Representative Board to advise with him on educational matters. The committee had an interview with Mr. Crooks and laid the views of the Association on the subject before him and he promised to notify Mr. Hughes when he came to a decision on the matter. So far he (Mr. Hughes) had not been notified, and he presumed that the Minister had not made up his mind on the matter.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the forthcoming year:

President, Prof. McLellan; Secretary, Mr. A. McMurchy; Recording Secretary, Mr. James Hughes; Treasurer, Mr. McAllister.

Mr. MCALLISTER, in not opposing Prof. McLellan's election, said he wished it to be understood that he did not aspire to office, but would act on a certain committee on a previous occasion.

Dr. TASSIE read a paper on the relation of Public and High School Programmes, and concluded as follows:

In concluding this paper, hastily drawn up to-day, I would urge strongly the necessity in the interests of the Public Schools of a higher standard overhead than of the High Schools. Without the said standard the name can be Schools no standard worthy of the name can be had to order.

Dr. KELLY (Brantford) said he was afraid that the fact was being lost sight of that the Public Schools should be feeders to the High Schools, and that one should and there the other began. He regarded the present school system as very complete in theory; and indeed in practice too if properly managed.

Mr. DICKINSON thought that if the Inst of Examination was more strongly defined the evils which were complained of would not exist.

Mr. BROWN held that the Colorado potato beetle had not been the great cause of complaint that the programme had been. He maintained that such subjects as natural physiology, botany, and other difficult subjects should be taken up in the Public School programme, and that the time of the scholars should be occupied in acquiring a thorough knowledge of the mother tongue, the ability to speak, read, and write well, and a thorough knowledge of figures. Then there should be say a hundred High Schools for the preparation of persons for the coming up house and the other walks of life, and there should be twenty or thirty good classical schools.

Mr. SCARLETT (Northumberland) thought that if the sciences were excluded from the public schools it would be a misfortune to the Province would never have a knowledge of them.

Mr. MILLER (Walkerton) though the Minister of Education must have come to the conclusion that the teaching of science in the Public Schools should not be made obligatory, as he had, in the new programme, made it optional.

Mr. MILLER (St. Catharines) was opposed to High and Public Schools carrying on the same work.

Mr. MCALLISTER thought the High and Public Schools should overlap and the scholars should have a chance of more complete training in Public Schools rather before they went to the High School. Under all circumstances, they wanted one school to be the feeder of another, and he advised High School masters to teach their scholars more particularly in reading and writing English.

Dr. TASSIE said that it was a high mark of the last speaker would apply very forcibly to the Public School programme. He knew there were many boys who were very good at decimals, but they were very poor in simple English. He was of opinion that all scholars should be good scholars in English before they were entered in the classics.

Mr. HICKS was in favour of training scholars in the classics when they were young, as he had found Latin and Greek scholars were those who were educated in these languages in their youth.

After some further discussion the consideration of the subject was closed.

It was decided to postpone the consideration of the report of the Committee on the distribution of legislative and municipal grants, Township Boards, and equalization of assessment, until the next meeting of the Association.

The Convention then adjourned until the evening.

EVENING SESSION.

The Vice-President took the chair at half-past seven.

Dr. ELLIS gave an address on the dependence of the properties of bodies upon the atomic weights of the elements of which they are composed. He dwelt at length on the history of investigations into the subject and gave a sketch of the chemical compounds of the elements and their relative values.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Ellis for his address.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

Mr. KIRKLAND said that at the suggestion of several High School masters and others interested, he had approached the Senate and University had framed a statute providing for an examination of women. The examination was extended simply to the end of the second year, but it might ultimately be extended to all the years of the University. It had to be carried in the various towns and cities throughout the Province at the same time as the University examination and on the same papers. These papers were prepared so that the ladies could take Greek, Latin, classic alone, mathematics alone, or modern language alone. The Senate of the University, unfortunately, for want of funds, could only offer certificates to those teachers in attendance, but he hardly thought it was fair for a large sum to be offered to young men and nothing at all to young women. He therefore moved:

"That a committee be appointed to ask the Ontario Government to grant a few scholarships, to be competed for at the University examination, for women."

The Committee was named as follows:—Messrs. Buchan and Dickson, of Hamilton, and Robinson, of Whitby.

Dr. MAY seconded the motion. He had much pleasure in doing so, because it affected a very important question of humanity—the ladies. He hoped the committee would urge strongly upon the Government the importance of the matter, and he had no doubt their report would be listened to courteously.

The motion was carried.

Votes of thanks were given to the various railway companies, the Press, the Minister of Education, for the use of the buildings, and the Chairman.

The Convention was then closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

A meeting of the Public School Section was held this morning. A chapter from the Bible was read and prayers were offered by Dr. R. McQueen, of Kirkwall.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, after which.

Dr. MCLELLAN gave a lesson of an hour's duration on the ancient and modern modes of teaching arithmetic, illustrating his remarks by solution of various questions.

A vote of thanks was given to Dr. McLellan for his address.

The following officers for the coming year were then elected:—S. McAllister, of Toronto, Chairman; E. Hopkinson, of Stratford, Secretary; D. Johnson, of Cobourg, R. McQueen, of Kirkwall, W. R. Harvey, of Barrie, C. Saunder, of Belleville, and James Hughes, of Toronto, Executive Committee.

Mr. DICKINSON moved, seconded by Mr. Burgay, "That inasmuch as three sections constituting this Association had representation on the late Council of Public Instruction granted them, and that by the abolition of the Council of Public Instruction this representation was abolished, therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Education be hereby requested to grant a representation on the Council of Public Instruction." The motion was carried.

The High School section met at 10 p. m. and appointed the following Executive Committee:—Chairman, John Seath, St. Catharines; R. Dawson, Belleville; Dr. Tassie, Galt; James Mills, Brantford; Henry Dickson, Hamilton. The executive committee will only one examination for candidates for admission intermediate as discussed at some length, but in view of the difficulties of any change in the present system, it was considered more advisable to allow the matter to stand over for the present.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

European.

General Grant intends visiting Garibaldi in the autumn.

The report that the Egyptian contingent for Turkey will be increased is gaining ground.

Seven thousand two hundred men will leave Spain for Cuba between now and Sept. 20th.

Frederick Cavill swam across the English Channel, from Cape Grisnez to Dover, on Thursday.

The English ironclad Agincourt has sailed for Besika Bay, with four hundred sets of quarters for officers.

The Sultan has expelled from Constantinople the Russian spies, who have been active in the service of officers and the address of Dr. Tassie.

The amendment was carried.

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I Feel Myself as Good as New!

WEST FAIRLEE, Vt., Jan. 11th, 1871.

DEAR SIR,—For seven or eight years past I have been in poor health, and for the past year or more very feeble. My health continued to decline, and my flesh and strength wasted away, until I was unable to work or even go up stairs without great exhaustion. I suffered from frequent and distressing attacks of palpitation of the heart, my food distressed me, causing acidity and pain in the stomach; and I suffered from extreme nervousness, constipation and debility of the system generally, my blood being thin and poor and sluggish in circulation, and myself for years suffering all the tortures of a confirmed dyspepsia. About six months since I concluded I would try a bottle of PERUVIAN SYRUP, and received so much benefit from it that I purchased five bottles more, and have continued the use of the Syrup until quite recently. It has completely restored me to such an extent that I feel myself as good as new. My digestion is good and my weight has increased in the past four months from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty-eight pounds; my strength has returned, and my general health thus wonderfully improved, and I can truly say that I owe it all to the use of your PERUVIAN SYRUP. I earnestly recommend all sufferers from dyspepsia and debility to give it a trial, hoping it will do them as much good as it has me.

Yours very truly,

MRS. S. B. BEMIS.

Sold by dealers generally.

If it enough to bring tears to the eyes of a potato to see a Burlington man on "lodge night," brace himself up against the office door and try to open a postal card to see what is in it and who it's from.—*Hawkeye.*

FARM AND OTHER NOTES.

FRUITS.

In nothing has nature been so bountiful to man as in fruits. They are nowhere a dependence for food, yet all races appreciate their use, especially and highly in the dietaries. Though their value as food is greater in hot climates than in temperate regions, still they do not greatly predominate, while they allay the pangs of hunger and stimulate the sense of taste, yet there is no table in any climate that is complete in its appointments without fruit in some of its varieties.

Fruits are divided into two classes, succulent and albuminous. The succulent include constituent of two parts, the juices and the cellular structures in which the juices are contained. That fruit which yields the richest juices in the greatest quantity and has a cellular framework most digestible, is the fruit most preferred and most digestible. In all the succulent fruits there is much more fluid than solid matter. By chemical analysis they yield sugar, acids, salts, and the various volatile essences to which their flavor depends. The acids found in fruits are the citric, malic, and tartaric; sometimes all three are mingled in the same fruit, as, for instance, in the pineapple. The salts are various; in the cherry are found the carbonate, phosphate, and muriate of potash, carbonate, and phosphate of lime, and magnesia, alumina, and oxide of iron. In the grape are found bi-tartrate of potash, the phosphate, carbonate, and tartrate of lime. Probably the salts they contain play as important a part in giving fruits their value as do the acids, since they are all in demand for some part of the body. The volatile essences are imitated and now successfully produced by the chemist, that many who think they are enjoying the juices of choice fruits are only tasting a delusive fusion. Many of the so-called essences are produced entirely in the laboratory, and are not obtained by the processes of nature. The modern improvements in science and the art of cookery have greatly enlarged our list of cultivated fruits. Many native of tropics have been transplanted and have flourished and thoroughly acclimated in our gardens. For others we have created artificial climates, in which they flourish with scarcely less luxuriance than in their own climate. The banana and the mangosteen are the delight of our hot-houses, and a lemon tree hanging thickly with golden fruit is by no means an unusual sight in the conservatories of New York and Philadelphia. The most important of our fruits are of Asiatic origin, and have been cultivated into Europe by the Greeks and Romans, and by the Crusaders; these have been brought to this country. Some of our native berries have been so improved by cultivation that they are scarcely recognizable as the same fruit.

The various processes of preserving fruits so simple and so well known, that there are few families in this country, especially in rural districts, who may not have all the luxuries of the season of fruit. Berries are everywhere to be had for the picking, and by a little forecast and contrivance they may be secured in abundance and variety. Canning may be as successfully done without sugar as with it, so that the jars and the fruit constitute the only outlay of money required for a full supply of fruit for the family, and a little labor do all the rest. For canning purposes the fruit should be ripe, sound, and perfect. Care in every inspection should be removed, and the canning process as quickly gone through with as possible. Tomatoes, pears, and berries should hardly have time to think between being picked and canned. Thus they will part with little of their flavor, and will be found, when used, the most delicious fruits have the character of imparting a flavor to other foods