

In the Public School Inspectors' section, Mr. A. Campbell, Kincairdine, read a paper on "The Public School Programms." The amended regulations were then considered. Several amendments were suggested, mainly in the direction of rendering teaching more practical. Provision for supplementary reading, bookkeeping, particular teaching of Canadian geography, simple music, recommendation of the tonic sol-fa system, were all suggested and discussed.

Mr. Smith read a paper on "Township institutes."

The Association met at 2 p.m., Rev. Dr. Nelles, on invitation addressed the Association, expressing his strong sympathy with its work and aims and wishing it increased prosperity. He congratulated the profession and country on the improvements which had taken place in the Education Department, particularly in the decision relating to religious instruction in the schools. This question, he thought, had been settled as satisfactorily as it was possible to settle it, and people who grumbled if put in the place of the Minister of Education would have done no better.

Mr. Fotheringham, P. S. Inspector for North York, read a paper on the permanency of the teaching profession. This will be found in another column.

Mr. J. A. Smith, Inspector for Wentworth, opened a discussion on "The schoolroom as a preparation for the farm and workshop." He thought that the present educational system of Ontario pointed too much to the university, while there was nothing either in High School or Common School which pointed to farm or workshop. He showed by quoting the figures of attendance that a very large majority of those attending the Public School never went beyond the fourth form, so that for these an education that pointed to the university was useless. He advocated the establishment of schools to be open during the winter months only, in which the students should be taught agriculture, management of live stock, mathematics, and some other subject of education. He believed that in this way young farmers could occupy their leisure in the winter most profitably. Such a system would create an interest in farming and prevent the overcrowding of the learned professions.

Mr. F. W. Merchant, Ingersoll, did not believe in technical training in the schools. What was wanted in the workshop in these days of machinery was not so much mechanical skill as intelligence. The aim of the school teacher should be to cultivate an intelligence which would avail his pupils in any position; to impress upon them lessons of honesty and patriotism, and to cultivate in them a love of reading.

Mr. Miller thought that the university should teach more of those subjects which would be useful in other than the learned professions.

Mr. Pomeroy thought it was largely the dull and unattractive life on the farm which drove so many farmers' boys into other callings. The remedy for this lay with the farmers themselves.

Mr. Alexander thought that such subjects should be chosen as would be of practical use and at the same time develop the intellect.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. McDermid, Reason, Claphaw, W. Clark, Brebner, Strang, Scarlett, and Kelly.

At the evening session Dr. Nelles, of Victoria College, opened a discussion on the subject of university federation. He gave a brief history of the circumstances which led to the Minister of Education calling representatives together to discuss the question of federation, and outlined the scheme which was the result of that conference. Broadly speaking, it resembled the arrangement in force at Oxford and Cambridge. A group of independent colleges retaining their own discipline, their self-government, their autonomy, but federated under one university and teaching from a common curriculum, having a common examination and common degrees. It was proposed to divide the curriculum, allotting part to the University and part to the colleges. While Victoria College had accepted the scheme with some amendments he thought that all these amendments were easily manageable by putting non-essentials in the background. (Cheers.) Throughout all the negotiation he had kept in view the advancement of liberal education in the Province, the economizing of resources, the combination of denominational enterprise and zeal. He believed that in this scheme they possessed the germ of a university college system which, with wise handling in a spirit of patriotic concessions, would grow to magnificent proportions.

Dr. Dewar spoke in favor of the scheme, urging that it would lead the Methodist body to take an interest in the University.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. McCallum, Embree, Nelles, Wood, and Gordon.

On Thursday morning in the Public School Section it was on motion of Mr. F. C. Powell, seconded by Mr. Duncan, resolved, "That in the opinion of the Public School Section the questions set in history for the late High School entrance examinations were too abstract and comprehensive to be properly understood and intelligently answered by boys and girls under 15 years of age, and that the attention of the Minister of Education be respectfully called to this fact."

The committee appointed on the previous day to prepare a resolution in favour of the retention of the fifth class in the Public Schools reported the following, which was adopted:—"That while we approve of making the course of Public School studies fit into that pursued in High Schools, we think that to have the course of Public School studies end with the fourth class, or the enforcement of any regulations tending to discourage the retention of the fifth class in our Public Schools, would be disastrous to the interests of Public School education."

The section then balloted for officers, and the following were elected:—

Chairman—Mr. F. C. Powell, Kincairdine.

Secretary—Mr. J. A. Brown, Whitby.

Directors—Messrs. W. J. Osborne, Rossmore; James Deacon, Woodstock; Robert Alexander, Galt; H. J. Strange, Goderich; John Munro, O'awa.

Legislative Committee—Messrs. R. W. Doan, W. J. Hendry, Toronto; and W. Rennie, Newmarket.

On motion of Mr. R. W. Doan, the reading of his paper on "Etiquette in Schools" was postponed until next year in order to give time for the consideration of the new regulations.

The regulations were then considered, and several amendments and additions were recommended to the Minister.

The High School Section decided to call the attention of Toronto University Senate to the objectionable character of the honour papers in English and the pass paper in history and geography for junior matriculation.

The University Senate was requested to allow candidates at junior matriculation to take more than one sub-department of natural science, and to have the course in botany more accurately defined.

Messrs. Strang, Dixon, McBride, and McCallum were appointed a committee to wait upon the Minister of Education and explain the nature of some of the second and third class papers set at the recent departmental examinations.

The committee appointed last year to bring in a scheme for High School graduation reported that they had met in April and considered the scheme submitted to them by the Minister of Education. They had recommended its adoption with a few amendments. Subsequently the Minister recast the scheme in harmony with the new course of study proposed for High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, and embodying the recommendations made by the committee. The scheme provides that any pupil who passes the departmental or the university examination in any of the courses prescribed for the second, third, or fourth forms in a High School shall be entitled to a graduation diploma, signed by the Minister of Education and the head master of the school. The committee recommend the adoption of the scheme by the section and by individual schools. The section adopted the report with a recommendation that the graduation diploma prepared by the department should be one that, by its neat and attractive appearance, would render it acceptable to graduates and suitable for presentation at a public meeting.

Mr. Oliver read a paper on "The Present Position of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes in the educational system of Ontario."

The Minister of Education addressed the section, explaining the new regulations for the distribution of the High School grant.

The following officers were elected:—

Chairman—Mr. D. C. McHenry, Cobourg.

Secretary—Mr. J. E. Wetherell, Strathroy.

Directors—Messrs. Spotton, MacMurchy, Fessenden, and Dixon.

Legislative Committee—Messrs. Oliver, Purslow, and Embree.

On motion of Mr. Connor, seconded by Mr. Millar, Messrs. Millar, Embree, and the mover were appointed a Committee to prepare a scheme for the assimilation of the entrance examination for students in medicine, civil engineering, dentistry, and pharmacy, and report next year.

The Committee appointed to consider Mr. Wetherell's paper reported the following recommendations:—(1.) That a constitution, by-laws, and rules of order be drawn up for the section for next