

THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

By our own Correspondent.

THE eighteenth Convention of the Manitoba Teachers' Association took place this month at Brandon. There was a large attendance and the proceedings were characterized by the greatest interest and enthusiasm. The first session was held on Thursday, 13th October, in the City Hall. After the routine business had been disposed of, an excellent paper on the teaching of Science in our schools was read by Mr. A. McIntyre of Brandon High School. This was followed by a spirited discussion on the salient points touched upon, and then Miss Ball, now of Chicago and formerly supervisor of drawing in the schools of Omaha, took the platform and for an hour or more held the attention of the audience in a talk on the Prang system of teaching drawing. She had a duplicate of the World's Fair Exhibit displayed on the walls, and she illustrated her talk by drawings on the black-board. The new idea brought out was that the object in teaching drawing is not to obtain stereotyped results which show no individuality and have little or no bearing on practical work in the Liberal and Mechanical Arts, but to stimulate and develop the power of proper perception, in the first place, and next to cultivate the ability and express in form and color the thought obtained. Miss Ball continued her talk the next day and there can be no doubt that all present were greatly benefited by the practical ideas brought out in regard to teaching constructive and pictorial drawing, as well as their bearing on all the work of the school curriculum.

On Thursday evening a reception was tendered the visitors from Winnipeg and other places, by the teachers and townspeople of Brandon. It took the form of a *conversazione* and was most enjoyable. The City Hall

was tastefully arranged for the occasion, sweet music was discoursed by the band and a good programme of elocution and music was presented. Later, refreshments were most invitingly served by the ladies and duly appreciated by the guests.

The chief feature of Friday's proceedings was a very able paper on English, read by Mr. G. D. Willson, Principal of the Brandon High School. It was thoroughly practical, especially in regard to the teaching of Grammar. One point in particular deserves notice. Attention was drawn to the fact that there is no adequate text-book on this important subject authorized for use in our schools, and the suggestion was made that in the lower classes an inductive study of the pupils' own language should be substituted, while in the advanced and collegiate classes, inductive study of the science of Grammar could be best carried on by means of a text-book of literary selections with probably a number of exercises, provided that no notes or explanations be in the book.

A thoughtful and earnest address was given by Mr. W. A. McIntyre, Principal of the Manitoba Normal School in Winnipeg, on the subject of Our School Programme of Studies in which he showed that such a programme should contain all subjects that tend towards the *right being, right thinking* and *right acting* of the individual.

A business session was held on Friday evening when several important resolutions relating to the advancement of education in Manitoba were moved and adopted.

The Provincial Teachers may be complimented on a most successful convention and one which clearly proves what is heard on all sides, viz., that the Western people are most progressive, and in no line more so than in education.