

is done. We had a very pleasant afternoon session, and I believe that the prospect for a very successful convention all the way through is excellent, and that great good will accrue to the city of Hamilton from the fact that this convention was held here. I am glad, too, that a gentleman whom you all know and respect has been elected to the honorable position of President of the Provincial Sabbath School Convention, and have much pleasure in introducing to you Mr. George Rutherford, the President elect, to whom I now hand over the keys of office. (Applause.)

President RUTHERFORD said: Ladies and gentlemen and Christian friends, I feel very deeply the high honor that the Nominating and Executive Committee and yourselves have done me to-night, and not only to me, but also to the city in which we meet. My opinion of their wisdom, however, does not equal my opinion of their kindness, for I am afraid they have made a poor choice, as I am entirely inexperienced and quite unused to presiding over such a large and important meeting, and, in fact, I only know of one good quality of a chairman that I possess, and that is that I am no speaker. (Laughter.) Fortunately the success of a convention does not depend upon the chairman. It rests more largely with the delegates themselves, and more especially still, as was expressed in the opening exercises, on the blessing from on high; and, as we have many important business subjects and important topics connected with our common work to be brought before this Convention, I trust that we shall look for that blessing, and if we do I have no doubt that this, the Twenty-first Annual Convention of the Provincial Sabbath School Association—the time of our majority as an Association, if I may so speak—will be one of exceptional blessing. Many of you know that I have been engaged for some time in Sabbath-school work, and that my heart, as well as the hearts of all I see around me, is in it, and I trust that such benefit and such enjoyment may be derived from this Convention, that we shall all go home inspired to fresh effort, encouraged amidst all our discouragements, and stimulated to nobler work in our Master's service. I trust that our venerable friend, Mr. McEwen, will not allow us to separate without some allusion to the topic of the best methods of helping teachers to carry on their work more efficiently. I have sometimes thought, although it perhaps does not become me to make the suggestion, that it might be profitably discussed whether it is not the minister's duty to teach the teachers how to teach. I am perfectly well aware, and many ministers here are more thoroughly aware of it than I am, that a minister's duties are neither few nor light; but I think it may be possible to relieve a minister of some of his duties in order to enable him to do the work I have referred to, with profit to all. But if that might not be so, at least this duty might be incorporated with some other duty, and so the efficient discharge of all duties be increased. Un-