

Moved by Mr. MacMurchy, seconded by Mr. Fotheringham, That the report of this Committee on College of Preceptors be received and adopted.—*Carried.*

Moved in amendment by Mr. D. C. McHenry, seconded by Mr. J. Duncan, That the Report of the Committee on College of Preceptors be received, and the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the Association, for their efforts in thus collecting information for the Association.—*Lost.*

Moved by Mr. Fotheringham, seconded by Mr. McKinnon, That the publication of fly-sheets containing the basis of constitution adopted last Jany., for the proposed College of Preceptors be referred to the Executive Committee for such action as they deem suitable.—*Carried.*

Moved by Mr. McAllister, seconded by Mr. Embree, That Messrs. Fotheringham, McKinnon, McHenry, Powell, and the mover and seconder be a Committee, to take into consideration the professional training of teachers, and to report on the same at the next annual meeting.—*Carried.*

Mr. Houston presented the following report of the Committee on Spelling Reform :—

*To the President and Members of the Ontario Teachers' Association.*

GENTLEMEN: Your Committee, appointed at the last meeting of this Association "with instructions to ascertain and report what steps have been taken by Governments, Universities, Colleges, Teachers' Associations, and Learned Societies to secure the general introduction of a simpler and more phonetic system of spelling English words than the one at present in use," have the honor to submit the following report:

The information given about the history of the spelling reform movement has been obtained directly by correspondence from officers of the American Spelling Reform Association, of the American Philological Association, and of the Philological Society of England. The thanks of the Committee are especially due to Mr. Melvil Dewey, the Librarian of Columbia College, New York. He is Secretary of the Spelling Reform Association, and in that capacity he has done all he could to facilitate the collection of authentic information.

The anomalous character of English spelling is due primarily and chiefly to the defective character of the English alphabet, and hardly less to a capricious manner of using certain letters and combinations of letters. In order to make spelling perfectly correct, that is perfectly phonetic, it would be necessary to devise a perfect alphabet, but our spelling might be greatly improved by a more consistent use of the one we have. Both of these objects have been kept in view by spelling reformers, of whom there have been many since the author of the *Ormulum*, in the reign of King John, gave directions for the guidance of those who should undertake to copy his text. Anglo-Saxon spelling was almost perfectly phonetic, and old English