

firm believers until we were convinced in the expensive school of experience. I will leave the subject of the University here as it will be dealt with ably, later on, by one who is a most creditable product of that institution himself.

The year that is just closing has been rather an eventful one for our association, both local and provincial. At our last convention, after the business of the morning and afternoon were disposed of, we sat down to an excellent banquet, as the guests of the Hamiota School Board, and before rising from the table we had the privilege of listening to a number of addresses which were just as inspiring as any of us have had the pleasure of listening to in some of the larger centres, and of course it is always fully understood that a Hamiota supper has never yet been excelled, so don't go away home before everything is over this evening.

The next event in our history was the preparation for the provincial spelling match. We had three municipal contests within the district that our association embraces. I was only able to attend one of these, which was held in the largest hall in the municipality of Miniota. The municipal council very kindly secured the use of the hall for us and had the satisfaction of seeing it filled to its capacity. These three municipal councils, namely, Miniota, Hamiota and Blanchard, deserve our hearty thanks for so very generously providing silver medals for their local champions and assisting in other ways. A great many of our school districts also provided bronze medals for their own champions. Altogether this event awakened more interest in our schools than anything that has taken place for a long time. In our municipality the older people got competing, district vs. district, and only the advent of a belated spring put a stop to it. It certainly was amusing to see grey haired men and women lined up with youngsters of grade V. upholding the honor of their respective school districts, and the results went to show that if Manitoba did at one time, through some mistaken educa-

tional policy, fall behind in this subject, the present generation of pupils are rapidly recovering the lost ground, and evidence also went to show that it was efficiently taught in some other countries and provinces away back in the dim, distant past. A certain amount of criticism has been offered as to the educational value of it all, and as to the methods of selecting the winners, but if we try it again we have to do the best we can, as we did before, always remembering the fable of the man who tried to please everybody and eventually fell over the bridge.

Following the precedent of 1916, your executive arranged for a midsummer rally in the west end of our territory. This time in the town of Beulah, where we got a right royal reception from the people of that town and district; a house filled to overflowing; drills and musical programme provided by the teachers and pupils of the Beulah school; and excellent addresses by Dr. W. A. McIntyre, of Winnipeg; Mr. G. H. Malcolm, M.P.P. for Birtle; Mr. J. H. McConnel, M.P.P. for Hamiota; Mr. J. W. Mitchell, Reeve of Miniota; Dr. Frazer, of Crandall; Mr. C. Frazer, Vice-President of this Association; Mr. John Murray, Chairman of the Hamiota School Board. The results of the discussion opened up there have come down to us here and formed part of our programme for to-day. It augurs well for the future of our local association when we have such a strong body of public men to come in with us and lend us their assistance and co-operation in this great work.

It is easy to review the past and count our successes, but when we look into the future we have to say with the Patriarch of old, "There remaineth yet much land to be possessed."

The problem of the support of our High Schools is still with us and is becoming more acute all the time, and it is one of the problems we as an association have to face. The government has for a few years back looked to our association for recommendations, and if we are going to justify our existence we, who are actively engaged in