

scheme). They were in his opinion proceeding on false lines altogether. The teachers' calling was already a profession. The teachers in towns get just as good salaries and occupied just as good positions as the clergymen, doctors, or lawyers. (Cries of "No, no.") He spoke from experience. (Laughter.) If the teachers had self-respect others would respect them. He could not see how a college would prevent overcrowding. He was in favor of a union within themselves, not interfering with the sphere of the Government. The Government had the responsibility now and they would not part with it. It was argued that the women were crowding out the men. Let them crowd. All he had to say was:—"Give them fair play and no favor and they will hold their own every time." (Laughter.)

Mr. F. W. Merchant wished the scheme to be discussed throughout the Province. It should be taken up by each of the County Teachers' Associations. He moved in amendment that the scheme for a College of Precursors be submitted to the Teachers' Associations for their consideration, and that a committee be appointed to confer with the Minister of Education to consider the details of the scheme.

Inspector McKeo, South Simcoe, seconded the amendment in order that the teachers and all interested might have plenty of time to consider such a radical change.

Mr. H. T. Strang was in favor of the motion with the amendment that the matter be referred to the associations for discussion. The delegates should report the feeling of the different associations. If such a change was carried out within two years they should be satisfied. One reason for the adoption of such a scheme was the constant complaint about suitable examination papers. (Hear, hear.) He understood that the Algebra paper had been cancelled this year and the Drawing paper was cancelled last year. This should not be so. The teachers should apply for a charter. They should ask the Government for a change. If they abused the powers given them the Government could cancel their charter.

The Chairman ruled the amendment out of order.

Mr. Pomeroy wanted to delay the committal of this Association to the principles of the scheme until the teachers of the Province had thoroughly discussed the matter.

Mr. MacMurphy was in favor of the affirmation of the principle, but he would not object to the matter being delayed until the feeling of the teachers could be got. The Association could meet again on the 28th December and hear the reports from the County Associations. After the feeling of the teachers was ascertained they could approach the Minister of Education in the matter. He agreed with Dr. Kelly that teaching was not now a profession. They were a body of men entirely under the control of outside parties. This, in his opinion, was an injury to the educational interests of the country. He would like to see the matter fully discussed.

Inspector Brebner declared himself in favor of the principle.

Mr. J. M. Taylor also favored the principle. If it was necessary to protect the public from an illegitimate class of lawyers and doctors, much more necessary was it to protect the public against worthless school teachers. (Hear, hear.) There were great evils in the colleges in existence to-day, and it would be a mistake to give the College of Precursors too great a power for fear they might abuse it.

Mr. Strang then moved the following resolution (which had been consented to by Dr. Kelly), seconded by Mr. MacMurphy:—

1. That this Association expresses its approval in general terms of the principle of the scheme proposed by Mr. Dickson in Section I., but recognizing the necessity for the fuller consideration of the details, agrees to have this paper printed and sent down to the various local Associations with the request that they will consider it, and report to the general secretary any action taken by them in regard to it.

2. That a committee to be named by the President be appointed to collate the results as received by the Secretary, and lay them before this Association for consideration at its next annual meeting.

Rev. Mr. Gordon, Inspector of Schools, heartily affirmed the principle proposed by Mr. Dickson.

Mr. John McMillan, Ottawa, thought the teachers should look out for themselves. The Government could take care of themselves. They could all agree to the principle, and send the scheme to the Associations for fuller consideration.

Mr. Pomeroy had an amendment. He wanted to define the general principle.

Mr. Pomeroy then moved, seconded by Mr. J. R. Sanderson:—That after the words "proposed by Mr. Dickson," in Mr. Strang's

motion the following be inserted:—"Namely the formation of a College of Precursors for the promotion of sound learning, the improvement of the position of the profession, and the protection of the public from incompetent teachers."

This the mover thought would define the principle.

The amendment was lost.

After some further discussion the motion by Mr. Strang was carried, and the convention adjourned till 3 p.m.

At the evening session Dr. Dewar read a paper on "Education in its Relation to Human Progress," which will appear in due course in our columns.

On motion of Mr. McBride, seconded by Inspector Thom, it was resolved that the time for holding the meetings of the Ontario Teachers' Association, be changed from the midsummer vacation to the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday immediately preceding Good Friday. In support of his motion, Mr. McBride said his resolution, if carried, would necessitate the granting of a week's holidays at Easter.

The Board of Directors were instructed to wait upon the Minister of Education, asking him to allow the days at Easter, during which teachers attended the Association, to be counted as teaching days.

The meeting then adjourned.

On Thursday Mr. Houston moved the resolution of which he had given notice. It was seconded by Mr. Hendry. In support of his motion Mr. Houston spoke of the mis-statements and misapprehensions prevalent in regard to spelling reform, and of the desirability of the Association collecting trustworthy information for its own guidance. He also gave the names of a number of well-known English and American scholars who supported spelling reform.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Board of Directors recommended the following gentlemen as office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President—Mr. H. I. Strang, Principal of the Collegiate Institute, Goderich.

Secretary—Mr. Robert W. Doan, Toronto.

Corresponding Secretary—Mr. D. H. Hunter, Woodstock.

Treasurer—W. J. Hendry, Toronto.

The report was adopted unanimously.

Mr. D. C. McHenry, M.A., Principal of the Cobourg Collegiate Institute, read an excellent paper on "Prizes and Scholarships." At the conclusion of his paper Mr. McHenry moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Alexander, and adopted almost unanimously:

That, whereas the prize system in operation in our schools and colleges involves the expenditure of a large amount of money that should be devoted to better uses in advancing the interests of education; and whereas the incentives employed and the motives thus appealed to tend to retard rather than aid the teachers in trying to employ the higher methods of culture; and whereas competitive examinations are not sufficiently reliable in case of awarding prizes; and whereas the awarding of scholarships, ostensibly to aid needy students, is ineffectual and misleading.

It is the opinion of this Association:—

(1) That prizes, scholarships, and medals should be abolished in all our educational institutions. (2) That public money now devoted to this purpose should be used to increase the general efficiency of the Provincial University. (3) That prize money now derived from private sources, supplemented by as much more as may be available, should be used (a) to establish a Beneficiary Fund for needy and worthy students, to be disbursed according to a plan similar to that in operation at Yale College, including the principle of loans to such students, based on moral worth, present need and reputable scholarship, and independently of competitive examinations; (b) Any available surplus to be used to encourage original research and special post graduate work. (4) That instead of the present systems of prizes, scholarships, and medals, honor students should be classified in such a way that the highest distinction in the University shall be attainable by all whose scholarship reaches a certain standard—say that of present gold medallists (a higher if necessary); subordinate honors to be decided in a similar manner—the principle here involved to apply also to matriculation and ordinary sessional examinations. (5) That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the authorities of each university in Ontario as the expressed opinion of this Association.

Mr. Embree moved, seconded by Mr. Miller,--

That the regulation in force in 1883 be restored, requiring that no candidate shall be permitted to present himself for non-professional examination for second-class teacher's certificate until one