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G. W. ROSS, LL.B., M.P.

The election of Mr. Ross to the presidency of the Ontario Teachers' Association seems a fitting opportunity to give a brief sketch of a gentleman whose name has had considerable prominence both in educational and political circles.

The subject of this notice was born in the County of Middlesex, Ont., Sept. 18th, 1841. He attended the rural school near his father's home, where he received, amid the usual associations of such schools in those days, sufficient elementary instruction to obtain a third-class county certificate, and entered

on the life of a teacher in 1857, at a salary of eighteen dollars a month!

In 1859 he obtained a second-class, and in 1866 a first-class certificate from the county board. After ten years of active work in the school-room, during which he was eminently successful in winning the confidence and esteem of his patrons by his thoroughness and enthusiasm, he entered the field of journalism by purchasing in 1867 the *Strathroy Age*. Subsequently he was for some time joint proprietor of the *Huron Expositor*, which has become one of the best local papers in Canada. In 1869, Mr. Ross attended the Normal School, then under the headmastership of Dr. Sangster, and in 1871 received a first-class Provincial certificate.

He was local superintendent of two townships, and, under the new school law of 1871, was appointed county inspector for East Lambton. He entered on the duties of this office with his usual energy. His zeal and ability were duly appreciated by the teachers of his district, and in 1875 they presented him with a massive gold watch and chain, accompanied with an address couched in the most complimentary terms. While inspector he established a Teachers' Association and founded a Teachers' Library in his division. On his retirement from the county inspectorship, the County Council presented him with an address expressing their high

appreciation of his successful labors. He still acts as inspector of the public schools in the Towns of Petrolea and Strathroy.

During those years when the establishment of additional Normal Schools was agitated in this Province and rival cities were clamoring for location of the proposed new schools within their limits, Mr. Ross took a leading part in the movement set on foot for the creation of County Model Schools, when it was found that the Government of the day hesitated to incur the outlay for additional Normal Schools. He devoted much time and attention to perfecting the new scheme of County Model Schools, and after their establishment, prepared the syllabus of

lectures, and was for a time appointed inspector of Model Schools. The excellent results that have followed are a sufficient indication of the wisdom of his counsels, and of the energy and skill with which the scheme was put into practical operation.

From 1876 to 1880 he was a member of the Central Committee, and was there a faithful advocate of the teachers' interests. He contended for the use of only one text-book on the same subject in the public schools, and was in favor of confining the Normal Schools to strictly professional work, leaving the academic or non-professional part of the students' training to the High Schools and Institutes.

From 1873 to 1876 Mr. Ross was connected with the *Ontario Teacher*, which he and Mr. McColl published at Strathroy. It was the first independent educational paper established in this Province, and was afterwards merged in the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL. During its publication it was a spirited and well-edited monthly, and enjoyed great popularity among teachers throughout the province.

Mr. Ross' career in the domain of politics is too well-known to need extended notice. In 1872 he was elected representative of West-Middlesex in the House of Commons, and has continued to represent this Riding without intermission, being

