

the Province had a feeling that they were considerably neglected. He believed that it would have a good effect upon education in that section of the Province to hold the next Convention in Ottawa. Dr. Kelly said that many thought Toronto got a little more than its share of such meetings, and it would be nothing more than fair to hold the next Convention in Ottawa. Besides, the likelihood of having a large number of delegates from the Eastern part of the Province of Ontario, and thereby increasing the interest in educational matters there, there would probably be many from Quebec. Mr. Kirkland said that the city of Ottawa had done more for education than any other part of the Province, and he hoped the next meeting would be held there. Mr. Robt. Alexander (Newmarket) opposed the motion. He thought no good end would be served by changing the place of meeting. Rev. Mr. Grant said that the example of Church Synods and other such meetings was not favourable to Ottawa, as they were never so successful as when held in a more central place. Mr. Hughes (Toronto) would heartily support the motion. After further discussion the motion was put to the Convention and lost, by a vote of 36 to 25.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Dr. Crowle (Markham) presented the report of the nominating committee in favour of the election of the following officers: President, Rev. Principal A. Cavan; Recording Secretary, A. McMurchy; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Kirkland; Treasurer, Mr. Samuel McAllister. On the motion for the election of Principal Cavan as President, Mr. Kirkland moved in amendment that the Rev. Dr. Ryerson be elected President. He thought, considering the long term of service which the Chief Superintendent had devoted to the educational interests of the Province he was entitled to such a recognition as the one he proposed, notwithstanding that in the past some had differed from the Doctor's views. Prof. Dawson (Belleville) seconded the motion. It was largely owing to Dr. Ryerson's fostering care of the educational interests of the Province that they had risen to their present high degree of efficiency and excellence. Rev. Mr. Grant said he would not yield to any one present in the respect and reverence he held for the Chief Superintendent of Education; but of all times the present was the most inopportune for bringing his name forward as a candidate for the presidency. He regretted very sincerely that it had been done. Dr. Ryerson had taken the trouble to come before them and give expression to such opinions that they could not now elect him President without giving their sanction to views which had not been discussed in the Association, and which he and others could not conscientiously entertain. The wiser course to take to-day was to put into the office a man whom they could honour, but whose election would not commit them to anything which they could not approve. He would not refer to those matters upon which he and others differed from Dr. Ryerson, as it would be simply throwing a bomb-shell into the Association, but he would say that, however much they might desire to honour Dr. Ryerson, there were other things to be considered in bestowing such a distinction. He hoped they would not blindly commit themselves on matters which had not been discussed before the Association. Mr. Hodgson (North York) did not think they would be committing themselves in any way by electing Dr. Ryerson President; if he thought so he would be the last man to support such a nomination, as he had opposed Dr. Ryerson in many things in the past, though he had a high opinion of the services he had rendered to our school system. He would first like to know, however, if Dr. Ryerson would accept the office. Mr. Kirkland said he had reason to believe he would. Mr. Kirkland and the secretary having been appointed scrutineers, a ballot was taken with the following result:—Rev. Dr. Ryerson, 36; Principal Cavan, 26. Mr. Hughes said he hoped that it would be understood that it was from no feeling of opposition to Principal Cavan that the division had resulted as it had. Mr. Kirkland said no man could hold a higher opinion of that gentleman than he did. The following officers were elected by a unanimous vote:—Recording Secretary, A. McMurchy; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Kirkland; Treasurer, Mr. McAllister. The following are the Vice-Presidents, they holding their office by virtue of their chairmanship of the Public Schools Teachers' section, the Inspectors' section, and the High School Teachers' section of the Association respectively:—First Vice-President, Mr. Robt. McQueen; Second, Mr. James Hughes; Third, Mr. J. Seath.

RELATION BETWEEN HIGH AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Mr. H. Dickenson introduced a discussion on the relation between High and Public Schools. First as to the programmes prescribed for High and Public Schools. Of the six classes in the Public Schools the fifth and sixth were very nearly the same as the first and second in the High Schools. He believed this was a very faulty arrangement, and he could not understand why they should have what they called the "English Course" in the High Schools. His great objection was that it must be almost impossible for High School teachers to frame time tables to suit their two classes of pupils—the classical and the English. The High School Inspectors had come to the conclusion that in High Schools the formal distinction between the English and classical courses could not be rigidly maintained. If the Public Schools were compelled to adhere to their programme, dissatisfaction would inevitably result. Another evil was, at present parents had the power of removing children from one school to the other whenever the whim seized them. He was strongly opposed to Union School Boards, as their tendency was to rob the Public School to enrich the High School. He pointed out the evil results of the system of "stuffing" the High Schools at the expense of the Public Schools, and for the purpose of securing the legislative grants. Complaint had been made yesterday that the school system was being weighed down by the incubus of third-class teachers, but the fact was that each High School was now a kind of Normal School for turning out such teachers. Where Union Boards existed the transferring of pupils from one school to the other was altogether too easily effected. The great evil was not so much in the existence of Union Boards, but in there being no uniformity, some being union and some non-union. All the schools should be free. He considered that those classes, known as "Preparatory Classes for the High Schools," were only a means of pandering to a pseudo-aristocratic element which was not in consonance with our institutions. The teachers of such classes were neither sheep nor

goats, fish nor flesh (laughter), and he thought they should not be recognized by the School Law, but should be supported exclusively by the class who sent their children to them, and the training conducted under nursery governesses. With regard to examining Boards, if large sums were to be distributed annually amongst the High Schools, according to their efficiency and on the results of intermediate examinations, it was absolutely essential that the schools competing should have a fair start. In order to insure this it would be necessary to have not only one uniform examination the Province over, but one Examining Board. There was just as much necessity for having the entrance examinations to High Schools of a uniform character, as to have uniformity of examinations for certificates. He thought that the present Boards should be remodelled, and that the Inspectors should conduct the entrance examinations on the same manner as it was proposed they should conduct the intermediate examinations. The work of the Examining Committee should be not only to overlook the report of the Local Examiners, but to conduct the examinations themselves. With regard to the subjects of examinations, they should include those of English and Canadian History, Natural History, Christian Morals, Chemistry and Botany; these were upon the programme for the fourth class, and the fourth class was the standard of admission; candidates should also be examined upon them. The reading or the paper was attentively listened to throughout, and was loudly applauded on its conclusion. Mr. Knight (Victoria) said that it was much easier to point out that the programme of the High Schools and of the Public Schools overlapped, than to suggest a remedy. He believed the system had better be left as it now was. All were agreed that we would be better without Union School Boards, but they had to deal with the fact that they existed. He would be in favour of doing away with such Boards within a reasonable time, but under present circumstances it was almost impossible. Mr. Hughes said that, so far as Toronto was concerned, the relations between the Public and High Schools could not be more satisfactory than they were. Each class of schools performed their work independently of the other. Mr. J. A. Bradley (London) thought the system at present in vogue for distributing money to the High Schools was fair, and very satisfactory in its results. After further discussion, the President was asked his opinion as to the best age at which children should begin the study of classics, and said he believed the power to acquire any language was greatest when children were young, and the difficulties multiplied as they grew older. If they wished to arrive at any proficiency children should begin young, when the vocal organs were flexible and the memory fresh. With regard to the general subject they knew that the Council had accepted a scheme which the Inspectors drew up, and he confessed that it appeared to him that that scheme was likely to work well. He believed that the question was purely a social one, and they could not disregard social feelings altogether. They could not expect the people all to send their children to the Public Schools; they could not force them at all events to do so. If social feeling led to the existence of these difficulties they must compromise with them. If they were to say that all parents should send their children to the Public Schools together, they would have some of them breaking away from the national system altogether. He could say that he had no such aristocratic feelings himself upon the subject, for no sight gave him greater pleasure when he came to America first than to see in the Chicago Schools the children of wealthy parents sitting side by side with the shoeless children of emigrants. If they could introduce a feeling of brotherhood into society he would hail the day joyfully, but they must not attempt to do it by force. Practically speaking he believed they were now agreeing to wait and see how the new scheme worked. He had had no experience of Canadian schools, but all his life he had done more or less in educational legislation, framing laws and ordinances for colleges and schools, and giving them his best attention; and it seemed to him that the scheme was skilfully framed and would work well. Mr. Buchan (High School Inspector) having been called upon, said he had been led from his experience to believe that the question under consideration was a very complex and troublesome one. He could add nothing to the view which the High School Inspectors had formerly expressed on paper. Their object had been not to change the law, but to draw up a scheme which would be practicable under that law. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dickenson for his address, and the discussion closed.

RECEPTION OF REPORTS.

The reports of the various sections of the Association were presented, as were the reports of the Industrial School Committee and the Committee on the Time of Meeting.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. Houghton moved "That a vote of thanks be tendered to the various railway companies which had granted favourable terms to the delegates attending the Convention; to the Chief Superintendent of Education for the use of the building; and to the reporters of the press for their fair and accurate reports of the proceedings." The mover spoke in high terms of the assistance rendered in the work of education by the press of the Province, and especially by the *Globe*. Mr. McMurchy seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried. Mr. Buchan moved that the hearty thanks of the Association be tendered to the retiring President for the able manner in which he had performed his duties. All would agree in saying that Mr. Smith's connection with the Association had been of the greatest benefit to it. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion, and also paid a high tribute of praise to the manner in which Mr. Smith had performed his presidential duties. Mr. Hughes said that as a proof that Mr. Smith's labours for the Association had been fully appreciated by the lady members he might mention that two of them had refused to vote for either of the candidates for the office of president, believing that no one was properly qualified to perform its duties but Mr. Goldwin Smith. Mr. Smith said it had been both an honour and a pleasure to him to preside over the Association, especially as he had always been so well supported in the chair. Sometimes little things presented themselves which were not quite so agreeable—attacks, misconstructions, &c.—but he held that a man must be a poor citizen indeed who could not expect such things, even though he had no axe to grind or reward to expect.