

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

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MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SECTION OF THE PROVINCIAL
ASSOCIATION.

THE month of August has come and gone, and with it the most interesting event of the teachers' year—the annual convention of the Ontario Teachers' Association. The programme was rather a scanty one in public addresses, though these are but the corolla of the flower, the fructifying elements being found in the morning work of the sections and the afternoon work of the general Association. There were two pleasant and interesting events connected with the proceedings that will make the meeting a "sunny memory" to those who attended it. Mr. Crooks, the Minister of Education, shewed his estimate of the importance of the meeting by his presence on two occasions, and by the assurance he gave the members in a pleasing speech that he read the reports of the proceedings with a great deal of interest, and was prepared to give serious attention to any representations made to himself that had for their object the improvement of our educational system. The other event was the garden party at Mr. Goldwin Smith's. A few years ago the Provincial Association took delight in honouring this gentleman by making him its president for two consecutive years. Since that time he has not only identified himself with it by subscribing to its funds as a member, but has more than once come to the relief of the Board of Directors by stepping in to fill a gap in the proceedings. To give further evidence of his friendly interest in the Profession and its objects he has on two occasions tendered his hospitality to those attending the meetings. We have no doubt that the sentiments expressed by

Mr. McFaul, who moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Smith on the late occasion, were but an echo of what all felt who were present, and that the remembrance of the evening spent on his grounds would always be a pleasant one.

The work cut out for the public school section was, as we foreshadowed, more than it could overtake. The Section did little else on Tuesday than organize by appointing Mr. Doan, of Toronto, Chairman, in the absence of Mr. Dickinson.

On Wednesday "Representation of the Provincial Association" was the first subject taken up. It was introduced by Mr. Chapman, and proved a fertile subject for discussion. One member proposed that there should be representatives appointed from each of the three sections—High School Masters, Inspectors, and Public School Teachers. Another was of opinion that the county associations should send representatives without regard to the branch of the Profession to which they belonged; yet another proposed to let the Public School Section be made up of representatives, and the others allowed to remain as they are; and a fourth doubted the necessity of representation at all. It was pointed out, too, that even with representation there would still be danger that the Association would not be of a sufficiently representative character, as many of the remote county associations would be unable or unwilling to bear the large travelling expenses of their delegates. To obviate this objection it was suggested that the Department might transfer part of the grant now made to local associations to the Provincial Association, and that this should form a fund out of which a mileage rate should be granted to all delegates attending the convention for their travelling expenses. Messrs. Munroe and