

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

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THE CONVENTION OF 1881.

THE Board of Directors of the Ontario Teachers' Association have prepared an interesting, and exceptionally useful, programme for the meeting commencing the 9th of August.

The teaching of Agriculture, should certainly have some attention in a country that is essentially agricultural; and no fitter person could be selected to introduce this subject than Mr. James Mills, an old member of the Association, who now occupies the important post of President of the Agricultural College at Guelph. The teaching of Industrial Drawing is essential to our success as a manufacturing people, and should have much more attention paid to it than has hitherto been the case. It is true that a good deal of nonsense has been spoken and written upon this subject by persons not thoroughly conversant with it; but their aim is right, and, if we can just get a little wisdom to balance their aspirations, no doubt solid progress in industrial drawing will be made. We may say at once, however, that mere copying or inventing designs, however elegant or grotesque, are but a small part of what scholars should do in our schools. No teaching of drawing is worthy of the name that does not give the pupil sufficient knowledge of perspective to enable him to express his ideas with regard to ordinary solid objects, or to make copies of any that come before him.

Professor Wilson, a former President, and a warm friend of the Association, intends to address the body on "Religious Teaching in the Schools."

The Public School section has plenty of work cut out for it. Its first subject deals

with a matter that is exciting considerable attention in England, and is fast coming to the front with us—the over-supply of teachers. This, we believe, is the first time the subject will have been introduced into the deliberations of the Provincial Association, and we venture to predict that it will not be the last. Already, in various parts of the country, we find a surplus of teachers, and it will require very serious thought to decide how best to diminish this growing evil.

Representation at the Association comes up again, and we hope will be advanced a stage, if not finally settled. It certainly made no progress at the last meeting. If any representation is to take place, it must be secured by a large concession on the part of the Public School teachers. If the autonomy of the Association, in its present shape, would not be interfered with, perhaps the best plan would be to let each local Association send representatives according to its members, irrespective of the branch of the profession to which they belong.

As Model Schools begin to form an integral part of the educational machinery of the country we hear less about them, but their work is still important enough to receive special attention, and it is to be discussed at the coming meeting. Entrance work to High Schools is another matter that is to come up in this section, and it is certainly time that special attention was given to the subject. There are many intelligent teachers throughout the country who are far from thinking that the work is satisfactory. We do not see any name put forward as the introducer of the subject, but we hope that this is no indication that it will not be intelligently and vigorously dealt with.

So far as our recollection extends, there