

# The Western School Journal

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## Editorial

### The Convention

The convention of 1918 was a success. It was a great success. That is the opinion of all who attended it. The President and members of the Executive Committee are to be congratulated on the programme offered, and those taking part in the proceedings are to be thanked for their efforts in the cause of education.

Nothing could have been more fortunate than the selection of Dr. T. G. Soares as chief speaker. He was an inspiration. His three addresses were helpful and uplifting, that of Wednesday evening being considered the finest war speech ever delivered in the city, and that of Thursday morning being the most suggestive ever made before the secondary section.

The convention proved that the idea advanced a few years ago of having practical demonstrations can be worked out most satisfactorily. This year it took the form of demonstrations in music, oral expression, reading, dramatization, teaching an unknown language by the direct method, teaching French conversation. There were also demonstrations of written composition, and of actual school work—all of which were exceedingly helpful.

The various addresses and papers published in this issue speak for themselves. There are other papers which the School Journal could not obtain, but which may be had later. These are equally interesting. It must be a great joy to the Minister of Education to witness the earnestness and enthusiasm

of the teachers of the province, and to observe how all classes are represented at the convention. It is very hopeful to see elementary teachers, secondary school teachers, and university professors working side by side with inspectors and Normal school teachers—all aiming at greater efficiency in the schools.

There are only a few minor changes that the Journal would care to suggest in planning a future gathering. The business meeting should be put on at a different time, and the business transacted in a different way. A time limit should be set if addresses are to follow the business—that is, the addresses should come at the hour called for, even if business has to be resumed afterward. The committee on resolutions should be appointed at Christmas. All leading resolutions should be published in the School Journal a month previous to convention. Snap judgments on vital issues should be discouraged. The programme for the sessions might contain less and be more helpful than at present. Time could be allowed for private meetings of fraternal groups. Such meetings would not then interfere with the regular gatherings of the convention.

### Salaries in Winnipeg

The School Board of Winnipeg is to be congratulated upon the adoption of its new schedule of salaries for teachers. It is a move that will undoubtedly make for greater school efficiency.