

country teachers and persons interested in the progress of education can concur in the matter now referred to, it does appear to me there can be no insuperable objection to grant us this particular extension of existing facilities, and I respectfully suggest the expediency of endeavouring to bring it about.

In conclusion, I beg to say that while I regret the state of my health has prevented me from presenting to this meeting my views in person, the same cause has hindered me from going more fully into details, and from embracing in my paper other points which have presented themselves to my mind forcibly. I should, however, consider it no small gain to us if only the few points which have been alluded to should be such as to secure general concurrence at our meeting. As respects a more vigorous and extended representation of our interests at the Board of the Council of Public Instruction, it is to be regretted that some, even of the members upon whose concern in our educational welfare we can rely, cannot always or more frequently attend owing to other pressing and more absorbing public duties. But I should deeply regret to give occasion for the inference that we had not in the Hon. Superintendent himself, at least, one reliable representative intimately acquainted with our local requirements. Indeed, so far from imputing any neglect to that quarter, I should desire heartily to concur in any expression of our indebtedness to that gentleman. Enthusiasm in any pursuit in life is one of the great sources of success; and when we witness in him and in the journal published under his immediate auspices such enthusiasm for the promotion of education in all its details as create enthusiasm everywhere in the breasts of teachers and readers, and which passes beyond the narrow influences of local prejudice and differences of creed, I cannot but feel that as a body of teachers, our interests are quite safe in his hands.

But let us be true to ourselves, and let us manifest our appreciation of what advantages we do enjoy, by endeavouring, each of us in his own sphere, to do the best he can as to his own part in carrying on the great work.

The report of the Judges appointed to decide upon the Galt Prize Essays was announced, awarding the 1st prize, \$25, to Miss Margaret Robertson, of the Sherbrooke Academy; the 2nd prize, \$10, to Miss Eliza P. Perkins, of Hadley.

A letter from the Hon. J. Sanborn was read by the President, placing \$25 at the disposal of the Association as a prize for the best essay, to be offered the ensuing year, to which was added the offer of \$10, by Dr. Nicolls, as a second prize.

The President having kindly consented to read Miss Robertson's Essay, it was listened to with much interest, and the President and Judges were requested to take the necessary steps to secure its publication.

Principal Graham, on behalf of the Business Committee, announced as exercises for the evening session, the presentation of the prizes to the successful competitors by the Hon. A. T. Galt, and addresses by that Hon. gentleman and Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Superintendent of Education.

The Evening Session (which was held in the Methodist Church) was well attended.

The President, in calling the meeting to order, expressed much pleasure in introducing to the audience the Hon. A. T. Galt, and the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau.

Hon. Mr. Galt expressed much gratification in the opportunity thus afforded him of meeting the friends of Education in Stanstead, and of presenting in person the well merited prizes to the ladies, to whom they had been, he doubted not, justly awarded. In Miss Robertson's absence, Inspector Hubbard responded briefly in her behalf, and also of Miss Perkins, who received her prize in person.

Mr. Galt then addressed the meeting at some length, testifying his deep interest in the cause of Education, and his anxiety, as a member of the Government, to do everything possible for it to ensure its safety and success, and repeating the assurances given in his address at Sherbrooke.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau next addressed the Convention. He spoke briefly of what had been done by the establishment of Normal Schools, to furnish an improved class of teachers, and in the formation of Teachers' Associations for the benefit of the many excellent teachers already employed. He referred to the *Journal of Education*, stating that if any teachers complained that it was not as good as it might be, it was in their power to make it better. He alluded to the complaint made by some of the different religious persuasions, expressing his desire that full justice should be done to all. He spoke in complimentary terms of the lead which Stanstead had taken in the work of education.

The President made a few remarks urging the importance of teaching both the English and French languages in our schools, which were warmly seconded by the Hon. Superintendent.

The exercises of the evening were interspersed with appropriate music by the Band. Adjourned to meet at 9 a. m. on Friday.

Morning Session, Friday.—Essays on the Office and Work of Teachers were read by Dr. Nicolls, W. H. Lee, A. M., and C. C. Colby, Esq., after which—

Principal Graham made some personal explanations relative to his

connection with another Association, and asked permission, on behalf of that Association (the Protestant Association of Montreal) to present to the Hon. gentlemen present a paper issued by their committee. The paper was accepted by the Hon. Messrs. Galt and Chauveau, who, in doing so, stated that the suggestions of the committee would receive their careful attention. They also expressed their wish to hear the views of teachers and others present, relative to amendments in the school laws. Mr. Chauveau spoke particularly of his desire that measures should be taken to secure separate and distinct funds, in future, for the support of Superior and Common Schools.

Mr. Inspector Hubbard suggested some changes in the details of the law, particularly in regard to the division of Common School funds among the several districts in each municipality, and also in regard to dissentient schools.

C. C. Colby, Esq., disapproved of the extensive powers given to School Commissioners, and was in favor of leaving the management of the schools more with the districts, by allowing them to choose managers, to employ teachers, etc. He also spoke of the indifference of the people in the election of Commissioners, and was in favor of vesting their powers in the Municipal Councils.

Mr. Thomas Jenkins made some matter-of-fact as well as rather humorous statements relative to the course pursued by the Stanstead Commissioners, in collecting taxes and paying teachers in "greenbacks," and in employing cheap teachers.

The President also made some important suggestions, of which, unfortunately, we have no minutes. He also expressed the thanks of the Association to our Honorable visitors for their kind attendance.

On motion of Principal Graham, it was resolved that the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Association be held at Sherbrooke. After a long and interesting session, the Association adjourned *sine die*.—*The Sherbrooke Freeman*.

District of Bedford Teachers' Association.

The Association met in this Village on Thursday, 22nd, at 1 1/2 p. m. President in the chair. It being the regular annual meeting, the election of officers was first in order, and on motion, Mr. Laing of Waterloo was re-elected as President for the ensuing year, Mr. Marsh of Granby, Sec.-Treas., Dr. Parmelee, A. Duff of Dunham, and F. W. Hicks of Knowlton, Executive Committee.

On a motion the following resolution was brought up, and after some discussion passed unanimously:—

Resolved.—That this Association will discountenance any attempt of Trustees or Commissioners to engage a teacher in any school under Government control without legal qualifications, or of such teachers to obtain a school.

In the debate, allusion was especially made to a number of instances in which clergyman reported schools in their own name which were not taught by themselves but were wholly under the charge of teachers without any diploma.

The following resolutions were then brought forward, and after some remarks, unanimously agreed to.

Resolved.—That inasmuch as the number of properly qualified teachers is now fully equal to the number of our schools, the Board of Examiners should henceforth be particularly careful to see that all candidates come up to the full requirements of the Law.

Resolved.—That this Association express its reprobation of the action of Commissioners in fixing a maximum rate of wages for teachers, which is unreasonably and injuriously low, thus degrading the character of schools, and discouraging teachers from properly qualifying themselves.

Mention was made of one Municipality in which the Commissioners resolved to pay no more than \$2 a week, and that (except the share from the Government grant) in American money; and of others in which well qualified teachers could not be found for the sums offered.

The following resolution was then discussed and carried:—

Resolved.—That it is the duty of the State, as far as is consistent with the liberty of the subject, to oblige parents to send their children to school for a fixed period; and that it is the special duty of Commissioners and Trustees to see that all scholars attending schools under their control are provided with necessary books and materials for school purposes.

The subject of prizes for Penmanship was then taken up and after some discussion laid on the table. The Association then adjourned till 7 1/2 p. m.

The Association met at 7 1/2 p. m. Minutes read and approved. The President read a letter from Prof. Robins, and presented a circular issued by a committee of the Provincial Teachers' Association for the consideration of the Association. Some remarks were then made on the position and relations of Model Schools, considering especially the possibility of making a more definite gradation in the Common Schools. It was thought that there was little possibility of such gradation except by common consent in large villages.