

## Aaron Free Press.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAR. 5, 1885.

### S. S. ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Convention well Attended and the Programme Faithfully Carried out.

The Convention of Halton Sabbath School Association held in the Town Hall last Thursday and Friday was attended by delegates from all parts of the County, as well as visitors from other counties.

The programme prepared was one of a very interesting and practical character, outline of which was given in the columns a couple of weeks ago. A matter of considerable satisfaction to the officers and delegates was the fact that every person appointed to take part in the programme was present to perform the duties requested of him and announced in the programme. The work of the Business Committee was equally very light.

The first session opened with devotional exercises at 10:30 on Thursday morning. Rev. D. L. Brethour, owing to the absence of the President, in the chair. This session was principally devoted to routine business, principally of the necessary committee and hearing of verbal reports. The reports from the schools were of a most encouraging character, spiritual progress being particularly referred to.

In the afternoon, Rev. W. G. Wallace, Georgetown, gave an excellent address upon the subject, "What can be done to gather all the children into the Sunday School." The paper was one of particular interest to S. S. workers and illustrated very clearly how to increase attendance, &c. The discussion which ensued brought out a diversity of opinions and would tend to call attention to points generally overlooked in S. S. work.

Rev. John McEwen, General Secretary of the Provincial S. S. Association, was then introduced to the Convention. He led in an institute exercise, by which he illustrated with the assistance of the black board, "Some of the mistakes in Sabbath School work." His remarks were of a sound and practical character, and being so plainly expressed and thoroughly explained, every person present must have understood his leading points at least. There was profit in this address.

"The best means of cultivating a missionary spirit among the children of the school," was very ably discussed by Dr. F. D. W. Bates, of Burlington. His paper was carefully written and was the outcome of personal observation and constant study of a subject evidently possessing peculiar interest to the Doctor.

The evening session was opened by an appropriate hymn by the choir of thirty voices, composed of members of all the churches in town, ably led by Mr. J. C. Hill, with Mr. A. E. Matthews at the organ. The hall was completely filled, the President having arrived by the afternoon train, now occupied the chair. The first speaker introduced was W. H. Storey, Esq., Reeve. His address of welcome to the Association was warmly welcomed and delivered in his usual happy style and left the delegates no reason to doubt that they were heartily welcomed to Acton by our citizens. Mr. Storey wished the Association every success and trusted that the labors put forth in this great work would be eminently successful. The President made a suitable reply, after which he reviewed the work of the Association at some length.

The statistical report of the Secretary was then presented. It included reports from forty-two schools of various denominations in the County, and showed that progress was being made. It also revealed the fact that a larger number of Sabbath School children in the County had united with various churches than was reported in any previous year. The sum of \$124,117 was raised for S. S. purposes, \$24,33 for Mission and \$15,50 for benevolent purposes.

The address of Rev. R. H. Abraham, of Burlington, entitled, "The encouragement of the work," was most interesting and was enthusiastically received by the audience. The clear oratorical style of Rev. Mr. Abraham is very pleasing to his hearers. His subject was well treated.

After some necessary business had been dispatched on Friday morning, Rev. G. C. Rock, of the Baptist church here, addressed the Convention on the subject, "The relation that should exist between the Church and Sabbath School." This is a deep subject and had received considerable thought on the part of Mr. Rock. His views were tersely presented and had the effect of bringing out a good deal of discussion, but we cannot say that the Convention was a unit with the writer of the paper when discussion was concluded.

Rev. Mr. McEwen again superintended an institute exercise on "The teacher's text book." This, he asserted, was the Bible, and he was sorry to see it so largely displaced in the minds of S. S. helpers, so many varieties of which are now in use. This exercise will undoubtedly result in a more careful and intelligent study of the Bible, by those who were present.

On Friday afternoon a mass-meeting of Sunday School children was held. They were addressed by Rev. Mr. McEwen and Mr. Johnson Harrison, Milton. Both these gentlemen have the tact of interacting an audience of children, and at the same time inculcating some precious truths into the youthful minds. The children under the supervision of Mr. A. E. Matthews and Miss Jessie Steel, sang number of Gospel Hymns very sweetly, the solo "Jesus loves me" by little Jessie Campbell, deserving special reference.

The children were dismissed at 2:30 after which Rev. D. L. Brethour presented a paper—"The pupil at home and at school aided by the teacher." This paper illustrated how much a teacher can further S. S. work if he will undertake a constant kindly supervision over his pupils. There were many points in this paper by which our S. S. teachers could profit.

The Committee on Resolutions have presented their report, among others the following important resolutions being offered and passed:

Moved by Johnson Harrison, seconded by D. Hartley. Resolved, that we trust it is exceedingly desirable that all our teachers, and other S. S. workers should be well

equipped for their labor, and whence in this case for S. S. service, be it therefore resolved that Institutes be held in Campbellville, Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Burlington and Oakville, three sessions in each place, to commence when and where the Executive Committee may determine.

Resolved, that this Association expresses its gratification at the way in which this Convention has carried out the intent of the Anti-Sabbath Law, which removes the temptation of the legalized liquor traffic from the young, further, that realizing the importance of the subject of temperance in Sabbath Schools, we reaffirm our action of former years declaring the liquor traffic to be one of the greatest foes to the peace and purity of the Sabbath, and the prosperity of the church, and would urge especially upon all churches and S. S. committees of management to make the question of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks a prominent topic of instruction in all Sunday Schools under their control.

Resolved, that this Association having enjoyed the presence of Rev. John McEwen, General Secretary of the Sabbath School Association of Canada, and on record his sentiments in regard to the importance of the Sabbath, and the principles of temperance, we respectfully urge upon all churches and S. S. committees of management to make the question of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks a prominent topic of instruction in all Sunday Schools under their control.

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