

in the second, the average cost per pupil would be lessened. It is one of the anomalies of our school system that notwithstanding the lower salaries paid to teachers in our rural schools, the cost for education in those schools is higher than it is either in cities or towns. This is owing to their low rate of attendance. During some parts of the year attendance in country schools is almost nominal; were regular attendance insisted upon this anomaly would disappear.

Emerson has said in his epigrammatic way, that it is better to be unborn than untaught, and no state system of education can be considered complete that does not make provision for that large class of our juvenile population which comes under the head of vagrants and incorrigibles. For such as these special schools must be provided, and this is a matter which has not escaped the attention of this Association. In 1868 a motion was passed in favour of establishing industrial schools for training our vagrant juvenile population. In 1870 the motion I have already read to you, which formed part of a report of a committee, was adopted. In 1873 I had the honour of reading a paper upon the subject, the discussion upon which resulted in the appointment of a committee "to wait upon the Government, and impress upon them the necessity of establishing one or more such schools in this Province."

A standing committee upon Industrial Schools was subsequently appointed, but without any effectual result. Enough has been said however, to show the interest that has been taken in this subject in past years. The fact that the Government has paid no attention to it is a sufficient reason for us still to keep the subject before us. Professor Huxley has well said that no plan of national education is complete unless it begins in

the gutter and ends in the university. Ours certainly ends in the right place, but where does it begin? Certainly not so low down as the gutter, and yet we have a large number of children in our midst who are shown by the report of the Minister of Education to be attending no school whatever—children either without parents, or whose parents are incompetent to manage them, and who eventually grow up to be a means of supply for our criminal population. The following wise words of an eminent statesman and scholar, who showed himself to be far in advance of his time, I mean Sir Thomas More, are very well worthy of being weighed in connection with this subject. "If you allow your people to be badly taught, their morals to be corrupted from childhood, and then when they are men, punish them for the very crimes to which they have been trained in childhood, what is this but to make thieves, and then to punish them." What has our Legislature done to secure the proper training of these children. Nothing, further than passing an act to sanction the establishment of Industrial Schools. There, not only the Legislature but the Government seem to think that their duty ends, and yet I know of no duty that more legitimately belongs to the government of a country than the proper care of these neglected children. I have often thought that if a man like Goldsmith's Citizen of the World visited this country, he would be as much amused with the inconsistencies in the management of our public affairs as Goldsmith's character was with those of the Man in Black. He would find that while our Legislature shows its benevolent solicitude not only for the insane, but for idiots, for the deaf and dumb, and for the blind by providing asylums for them, it shows itself totally indifferent to the welfare of those neglected boys and