

and of applying without stint, or grudge, every dollar that the revenue of the country can possibly afford, to promote the education of the people. The education of youth is assuredly the cheapest and most certain protection of a nation from the inborn evils with which it may be afflicted. Properly educated boys and girls are one day to be the reliable supporters of the honest statesmen of the land, and are the elements that make any people truly great. No part of the revenue of a country is therefore so well applied as that spent on education, and the sagacity of the politician, when exercised to secure and foster this blessing, has a depth and expansiveness about it, seen and felt, as it is not in any other branch of the public service. Public funds may be, and doubtless often are, wasted upon interests of uncertain value, and in opposition to public conviction, but those devoted to education are the seeds of an increase to be gathered as a golden harvest.

It is not, therefore, unreasonable that we should ask that every available dollar of the revenue should be sacredly consecrated to the education of the people, and be as capital invested for the good of the generations to follow us. Whilst pressing this idea of *free public schools* and urging the necessity of their support, and the employment of means to secure to every child in our land a sound education, I have no disposition to undervalue the many excellent private schools located in many parts of the Province. Our free school system seems to have stimulated such enterprises, so that private schools under our present School Law, are more than ever remunerative.

I must here refer to a subject alluded to in another part of this Report. I mean the importance of providing for instruction in certain special branches of education. Under this heading I will make particular mention of Nautical schools, schools for Drawing and Design, especially adapted to the requirements of our young artizans, and also a more complete arrangement for instruction in the Natural Sciences. Until we have these necessary appendages, our School System, however good it may be in other respects, will be sadly incomplete, and fail to meet necessities that are already around us, and are every day becoming more urgent as the great mineral and commercial resources of our Provinces are better known.

As for *Nautical Schools*, I am aware that this is a subject which, during past years, has been ably discussed and the formation of such schools advocated from time to time, but as yet without any practical result. The maritime position of