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AND
COUNTY OF LEEDS ADVERTISER.

Vol. XXIV. No. 29 Athens, Leeds County, Ontario, Wednesday, July 22, 1908. G. F. Donnelly, Publisher

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Annual Midsummer Clearing Sale

Ladies' Wash Waists Sacrificed

Annual Mid-Summer Clearing Sale has commenced. All summer goods must go.

Ladies' Jumper Dresses—one piece, in blue or green linen, pink muslin or mauve flowered Muslin, regular price \$5.00, Sale Price.....**\$3.95**

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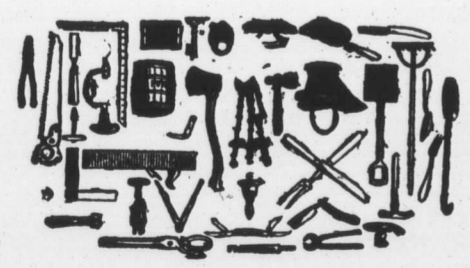
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Wm. Karley, Main St. Athens

WRITE THE REPORTER FOR SAMPLE OF
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DR. PYNE'S LETTER

Toronto, July 9th, 1908.

Dear Mr. Donovan,—Referring to your enquiry as to the abolition of the Model School at Athens, I may say that you were quite justified in stating that it might be retained. Any public statement you made to this effect would be entirely warranted by the information possessed by me up to a few days ago.

The announcement I made in the legislature last session was that the Model Schools would be retained wherever they were required. It was impossible at that time to be more explicit because the statistics which have since been collected all over the Province and the report of the Model School Inspector on these facts were not then available. The evidence necessary before deciding upon a policy for this year has recently been obtained and the decision to abolish the School at Athens in one which neither you nor I could have foreseen. No decision to abolish it, therefore, had been reached when you made your statement to your constituents and you acted in perfectly good faith throughout.

In resolving to retain certain Model Schools for 1908, I have been guided by the report of the Model School Inspector based upon the number of District and Temporary Certificates now in existence in those portions of the Province where the Schools will be situated. The government took action speedily when the necessary evidence was in hand.

From various causes I have found it impracticable to organize the new system of Model Schools during the present year. In particular, the number of teachers with the new Third Class (the old District) certificate that will be needed for 1908—1909 cannot be definitely ascertained at present. From appearances it will not be large. I have, accordingly, thought it wise to continue for 1908 the former Model Schools at the places announced to the different Boards and published in the newspapers.

As you know, the effort to secure better trained teachers is no easy task and demands some sacrifice on the part of all of us since it is only by united action that better educational results can be obtained. It would not be fair to the parents of the children nor to the children themselves to continue the issue of Lower Grade Certificates where they are really not required. The excellence of any Model School is really not the question at all but whether the district in which it is situated is one requiring, for financial reasons, a supply of low grade certificates. The School Board at Athens would not, I feel sure, desire to interfere with the general plan we are now working out for raising the standard in teachers' training. Even if some sacrifice on the part of any locality formerly in possession of a good Model School is necessary, I feel sure that sacrifice will cheerfully be made. The case is not that of Athens alone, but also of other centres throughout the Province, and the government confidently looks for co-operation in carrying out its policy of substituting Normal for Model School training.

In any event, owing to the fact that we had no definite evidence on which to decide the matter, your attitude cannot be fairly impugned either on the ground of sincerity or a lack of readiness to espouse your local Model School.

Yours very truly
R. A. Pyne,
A. E. Donovan, Esq., M.P.P.,
Toronto, Ont.

A LAW THAT BLIGHTS

The Loss of Model Schools as Viewed by a Farmer

For many years the Province of Ontario has enjoyed an excellent system of educational laws, a system which has proved not only of untold worth to the youths of successive generations, but has borne with it, as on wings of love, a cherished hope to the hearts of thousands of parents, whose earthly possessions were indeed small, inspiring them to bend with renewed energies to the task of educating their children, knowing that with the gracious educational provisions afforded them it would not be long until they should gain the teaching profession, when they would be able not only to provide for themselves and prepare for higher qualification, but also in many cases to recompense their parents for at least a part of the hard earnings expended on them. Thus has our country not only been

filled with self-made young men and women, who are the glory and pride of a nation, but also with grateful parents and happy homes. Thus has the money annually expended on our schools returned in blessings on our heads.

But, alas, a change has come, a change which, I believe, instead of proving a blessing, will prove one of the worst blights that has ever struck the educational cause of our country; for with our county Model Schools ruthlessly rent from us, and a compulsory year's training at a Normal School in some distant city before the young teachers can earn anything for themselves, where, then, will the average farmer and laboring man's hopes appear? They are utterly cut off, for they cannot afford the additional expense on one child and do equally as well by the rest, and in a parent's heart there can be no distinction. Quite unlike the Whitney Government law which heaps bounties on some and burdens on others.

During the cold winter recently passed, two girls, daughters of a widow mother, walked three miles each way, morning and night, to attend our Athens High School, aspiring to become teachers, but, alas, their hopes are now gone—and this is only a type of hundreds of suchlike cases. Surely the man responsible for this sad change must either on the one hand be most dastardly ignorant of the depressed condition of affairs among the laboring class of our country, or on the other must possess the hardened heart of a criminal. Has it not been the united influence of the laboring men of our province that has placed the members of this responsible government where they are? How is their kindest efforts being recompensed but by directly turning their children out of school and indirectly away from home and out of our country. Surely the insult is too bold a one for any sane Legislature to offer to an intelligent public; for, when thus humiliated with a sense of failure through lack of means to reach the profession they had chosen, it is probable that many of them will seek employment across the border. We all freely admit that a large per cent of the best teachers in our schools have sprung from homes like these. When these, our young people, are turned away, who will come and teach our schools? Perchance some tenderfoot or money man's dude, who may have but little or no regard for the progress or welfare of the pupils, but whose chief aim may only be to put in the time, draw his salary and get away to spend it in gay saloons or at shows and theatres.

Surely the time has come when we, the sober minded, honest hearted, industrious men of our country should call a halt to such madness and such folly and inform those educational enthusiasts and members of that government that they were not sent there to rob us of our just rights and rule with tyranny, but rather as our servants to protect our rights, execute good and honest legislation, and do our pleasure.

Another serious injury to be wrought by the removal of the county Model Schools is this: While waiting for money-men's sons and daughters to sufficiently respond to the call, our rural schools must be filled in many places with young girls and boys direct from the public and high schools, with out the least training as teachers. Now, we all know that in starting in a thing of so great importance, they should start right and with a uniform method, which will not be the case without a Model training, and when left to thus start wrong how will they ever get right or make a success of the business?

Yet one more question, for it seems hard to close, though being written after a long day's toil and under the flickering glare of a midnight lamp, but my heart is full of injured feelings in behalf of many of our dear young people. Ask yourselves this question: how many rural schools in our county, how many counties with such schools in our province, multiply the number by at least three hundred, being the lowest salary paid in each, and see how many hundred thousand dollars in salaries will thus pass from the reach of the laboring class into the hands of the wealthy, and ask is this right, and the answer will be invariably NO.

Eph. Robeson,
Hard Island, July 17.

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