

selves for better work is most creditable, and shows that the material is available for an excellent well-trained staff for our elementary schools, and all that is required is sufficient remuneration to enable the candidates to incur the expense involved in a preparatory course of professional training.

I have no hope of being able to increase the efficiency of our staff beyond its present status under existing circumstances. It will require all our efforts to maintain the present degree of efficiency. The literary requirements for our diplomas impose as heavy a strain as our system will bear. All first-class diplomas of the three grades now require previous training or successful experience in teaching. To impose further requirements for second-class diplomas under existing circumstances would simply increase the number of schools under persons without diplomas. The difficulty is really a serious one for our educational well-being, and it deserves the careful attention of all those who are interested in our Protestant educational institutions. Defective elementary schools are more serious in their consequences than one would be inclined to suppose. If the facilities for an elementary education are poor in our country districts, the better class of the inhabitants of those districts will be compelled to withdraw out of regard for the interests of their children. This question, therefore, does not concern educationists merely, but affects the vital interests of our rural sections. It is not too much to say that the continued existence of the Protestant minority in this Province is closely bound up with the maintenance of efficient elementary schools, and it is time that those who have great interests at stake in this Province should have these facts pressed in upon their attention.

The remedy for our present educational distress is simple, and the means for applying it are at hand. More money is required for the maintenance of our elementary schools. The local taxation of two to five mills in the dollar cannot well be increased in the present condition of our farming population.

The expensive nature of our system renders increased aid from external sources absolutely necessary for an efficient system of elementary schools. This additional aid may be looked for from two sources. First, from an increased Government grant for elementary schools. This increase has been urged by School Commissioners, by School Inspectors, by the Protestant Committee, by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and by this association; and let us hope that the present Premier of the Province, who has given so many substantial proofs of his deep interest in our educational work, will see his way