

forth an effort to respect the regulation by having an elementary teacher for a portion of the year; and it is for the Committee to say what instructions shall be given to them for the coming year in this connection. Of the model schools asking to be recognized, Valleyfield deserves approbation for its last year's work, though through some misunderstanding, no written examination was held. Sawyerville School is also worthy of being admitted as a model school, whenever arrangements have been completed for its recognition as a distinct school municipality. Levis asks, or intends to ask, for recognition for next year. Beebe Plain can no longer be considered on our list, while it is doubtful whether Sorel can be recognized much longer as anything but an elementary school of one department. In connection with the second item, "the standing of the teachers as decided by the grade of their diploma" the most satisfactory state of affairs exists. That state of affairs, I am glad to think, will not only be continued but further enhanced by the late announcement which says that, to encourage professional training, the Protestant Committee has resolved that only professionally trained teachers or those who hold first-class diplomas under existing regulations shall be placed after July 1894 in charge of any department of a school subsidized and controlled by the said Committee.

In estimating the efficiency of the teaching in the schools I have continued the plan of former years in averaging for all the departments. Thirty-three of our schools have received a very creditable mark in this connection, and I expect the average will be very much increased in the years to come when none but teachers of experience or trained teachers are engaged in our superior schools.

On the question of salaries some of our Commissioners have seen their way to reach beyond the tentative minimum used in striking the ratios, and in doing so they deserve the very highest encomiums. The efficient teacher cannot be too well paid. "The best article is the highest priced" is a maxim that may be translated in connection with school work: "the highest salary secures the services of the most skilful teacher." Yet many commissioners still persevere in thinking that the public interest lies in keeping the teacher's salary as far below the minimum as possible. As the time approaches for all our schools to be fully equipped through the grant for "appliances," I would suggest that the teacher's salary be supplemented directly by the Committee, though, only when the Commissioners have promised the minimum at the time of engagement.