

carry on a dual system of schools in the country districts, a larger expenditure of money is required than would suffice to provide a uniform system for all the inhabitants. The present unsatisfactory state of our elementary schools is due in a great measure to the fact that this expensive feature of our present system has not been fully recognized. I shall take occasion to refer to this point again, and will now simply say that very little can be done for the improvement of our elementary schools until this fact is recognized, and more liberal provision is made for their support.

*A second defect is that the children of each locality or district are trained under two different influences*—in different buildings, in different text-books, and, in the main, in different languages; and by this means those who are to live together as one community in after life have their natural differences and prejudices intensified, rendering it all but impossible for them to act as a homogeneous people in after life.

There is one way in which this defect can be partially overcome, and that is by insisting that the two languages of the Province shall be taught in all our schools, so that there may be a medium for free interchange of thoughts and opinions among different classes of the community; and I shall show presently that important progress has been made in this direction during the past few years under the regulations of the Protestant Committee, and that further progress in this direction depends largely upon increased educational grants.

*The third inherent defect of our present system is that it becomes necessary under it to recognize and legislate for a minority*—always a difficult and unsatisfactory work, and rendered doubly difficult by the conditions of this Province. Minorities are proverbially grumblers, and from the nature of their position they are probably necessarily so. To be obliged in all educational movements to consider their bearing, not only upon the interests of the majority, but also upon the naturally sensitive minority, adds very much to the difficulties of educational work in this Province.

So much for the inherent defects of our system. Attention has been called to them, not in a spirit of criticism, not with a view of magnifying them, but in order that it may be clearly seen that they are *inherent in our present system*, and that it is worse than useless for us to waste our energies in crying out against them as parts of our system. Apart from these defects, a candid examination of the system will compel an admission of its general fairness and excellence, and of the importance of the