

Should any balance of cost remain and have to be raised, it would scarcely be felt over the large area of the combined district.

It does seem to me that what I have written, together with the authorities cited is sufficient to demonstrate the desirability of adopting this system. The advantages seem manifest. Should an effort ever be made to adapt it to our requirements, it should be made in a very methodical and systematic way. The Province ought first to be carefully mapped out so that there would be the greatest economy of space, the new schools to be so located as to enable as many old schools as possible to be merged into each new one, and so as to be in the place most convenient for the whole combined district, and not with a special view to the convenience of any one part to the detriment of the remainder.

That this consolidation idea cannot be carried out at once is evident. But it could be started. Many things besides Rome took more than a day in their building. It will take time, but the object lesson provided by the first half-dozen little schools formed into one excellent graded school, which will be a credit to the community, instead of an eye-sore as too many of our schools now are, will have its effect. It will be like the effect of starting and operating the first cheese-factory. After the first one is formed the public will see the great advantages of the plan and will take it up readily. In Souris this has already, in a small way, been done, as the people there, after considerable opposition, have voluntarily united two schools into a single larger one, with, I understand, satisfactory results. They could take in every other school, at least on the east side of the river, within a radius of 3 or 4 miles, with even better results.

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