

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MANITOBA TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION
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## Trustees' Bulletin

### THE ANNUAL REPORT

The report of the Department of Education for the year ending June 30, 1917, has just come to hand. I have not had time yet to do much more than just glance through it, but I have already found a number of things of interest to all who take an intelligent interest in education. In Inspector Best's report I find the following: "Without any intention of reflecting on the management of the schools, I am persuaded that it is highly advisable that the mothers should be represented on the School Board." This reminded me that a resolution recommending that the wives of ratepayers be made eligible to sit on the School Board, simply by virtue of the fact of their being the wives of ratepayers, was defeated at the last convention of the Manitoba School Trustees' Association. The arguments in favor of this course seem to me so strong and those against, so weak, that I cannot understand the defeat of the resolution. Our aim ought to be, as in filling all public offices, to secure the services of those best fitted for the work. It is beyond question that there are very many women who by virtue of their sympathies and their own educational attainments, are eminently qualified to serve as school trustees. No one has proposed, so far as I know, that there should always be a woman on the School Board. A rule to that effect would lead to situations as absurd as the present one. The proposition is simply that a woman otherwise competent, shall not be disqualified because she has no property assessed in her name. Why should a single woman with a few hundred dollars worth of taxable property be considered a fit

and proper person to sit on the School Board, and the wife of a large land owner be debarred because some of the property has not been transferred to her? The objections all spring from the old idea that the trustee is simply the trustee of the ratepayers' money. There are still too many trustees who regard it as the Alpha and the Omega of a trustees' duties to save all the money possible and forget that they are also trustees of the children's welfare. Who has more interest in the child's welfare than the mother?

Another interesting report is that of Inspector Lang. I confess to something of a shock at the analogy drawn between certain studies for "mental discipline" and the old dope of brimstone and treacle for "purifying the blood." I notice that Mr. Lang uses some other expressions that bear a very strong resemblance to "mental discipline." He speaks of Latin as an "instrument of education," and of the "disciplinary value and advantage" of certain studies in French Grammar. However, I should like to do a little more thinking on the subject before committing myself too far. Mr. Lang gives us one thing that is too good to be hidden away in a departmental report. Page 213 of report: "One of the provincial staff of high the school teachers, well and favorably known for his excellent educational record as a hard-working and successful teacher, sends to me from the trenches the following reflections upon educational theories as they appear in the light and the fires of war: 'This war gives one a good many angles of vision. You know how the orthodox in educational ideals wavers and veers, partly from local