

state of things will be entirely rectified. In drafting the clause great care had been taken to provide for the religious instruction of the children, and that they shall receive such instruction from the representative of the religious denomination to which they belong. By this we have maintained the principles which underlies the present educational system, and happily I have received the co-operation and unanimous approval of all the superintendents of education. The conscience clause read as follows:—

There shall be no religious or doctrinal subject taught in such amalgamated schools during school hours; but the teachers may, either after or before school hours, or during recess, teach religious doctrine to the pupils of his own denomination, or to any others who, with their parents' consent, may be willing to remain. Arrangements shall also be made by which the children of the other denominations may have the use of the school house, outside of the school hours, for receiving religious instruction, by some respectable person of the respective denomination appointed by the clergyman.

There are some who profess to believe that religious instruction is out of place in the ordinary day school. With such a view I have no sympathy whatever. When we consider that the business of education is to assist the growth of our spiritual nature; to dispose of the circumstances that affect it in such a way as best to promote the harmonious development of all the faculties, then we recognize the importance of an education that is not divorced from religious training. The establishment of amalgamated schools is no way interferes with religious instruction, in fact its importance is recognized and emphasized by the paragraph in the Act which I have just read, and ample provision has been made so that direction may be given to the moral and spiritual natures of the children in the dawn of their existence by an authorized representative of the religious body to which they respectively belong. I beg to draw attention to the clause having reference to the Council of Higher Education, inasmuch as I shall propose to the house an amendment to the clause as it now appears in the bill before us. The Council of Higher Education consisted originally of twenty-three members and they had placed at their disposal four thousand dollars. While the work of the Council has increased enormously during

the ten years since their appointment, the original amount placed at their disposal to carry on the work has never been supplemented until the present time. I have been asked to move the house to grant an additional sum of \$1,500 to be added to the original vote of \$4,000, and I have very much pleasure, indeed, in complying with the request; and I have not the least doubt but the house will readily respond to the invitation. When we consider the fact that the gentlemen who compose the Council of Higher Education are performing a labor of love; that they are not paid for their arduous and important work, any recommendation that comes from them is worthy of the most careful consideration of the house. Their work is purely a philanthropic one; they have no personal ends to serve; and I submit, therefore, that any recommendation emanating from that body as not only deserving of the best consideration of this house, but should be readily conceded to. Before the establishment of the Council of Higher Education, there was really no one common standard to which teachers could aspire, or pupils work up to. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have established, by the Council of Higher Education, a standard known as the Associate of Arts, to which teachers, as well as pupils, may aspire. In the case of teachers it means increased salary, and in the case of scholars it opens to them a chance of attaining a degree, which is very little inferior to the London Matriculation Degree. The expenses connected with the Council of Higher Education now amounts to \$5,612, and is distributed under the following heads:—

To payment for examinations,...	\$2,500
To prizes and scholarships	1,000
To teachers premiums, stationery, advertising, &c.....	700
To supervising.....	720
To secretary.....	500
To attendant in waiting.....	72
To incidental (petty cash).....	150
Total	\$5,612

At the present time the Council has to face a deficit of \$942. I hope with the acquiescence of the house to remove this obligation from the gentlemen of the Council, so that they may carry on without embarrassment the praiseworthy work for which they have volunteered.

The amount of money set apart by this