

expressed when this view of the matter is inspected closely, and I shall in this paper expose some points in the system of government aids as employed on this branch of the public service, which lessen the advantage that would otherwise be derived from a liberal expenditure of the public money. Is it true that such an amount of money is paid? This is the first question that arises in the mind of the calm inquirer. From the last report we find that upwards of fifty-seven thousand pounds were expended in the school service in this province, without reckoning the tuition fees paid by the scholars attending private, Madras, Grammar, and other schools not immediately under the control of the Board of Education, although nearly seven thousand pounds annually leave the treasury for their support. Supposing these schools to be nearly one-third self-supporting, this gives us three thousand more, and makes the sum-total sixty thousand, quite a large expenditure for a young country. The average cost of teaching one child a year would be four pounds at this rate.

The grammar schools receive each one hundred pounds from the treasury when certified to have an average daily attendance of fifteen pupils of ten years of age and upwards, and to have received in cash for the support of the teacher fifty pounds. One of the first duties of the teacher in self-protection is to get as many children as will give this average, and to have them there every day. If a stormy day hinders a great many of these pupils from coming to school, so much so as to reduce the number of children of the required age, much below the statutory average, his duty to himself is to set the school free for the day, as that will not reduce his salary, whereas staying with the few would deteriorate his average so much as to require many good days to bring him anything near his proper position. This is his plan if he is at all scrupulous in conscience.

When his half yearly term is completed, if he is inexperienced, he will expect to receive his twenty-five pounds of tuition fees that require to be paid then, so that he may draw the full amount of the grant for that term, but he finds that "money is tight,"

and that the person he has spoken to, who, by the by, may have a boy and girl upwards of ten, has been thinking, on account of the gloomy prospect, that he cannot afford to send the children, but promises faithfully to pay what is due as soon as possible. For every pound the parent should pay, the government pays two. Throw away the one pound, it is not worth hunting for, keep the children in the school to make up your average, and pocket the two, is the world's advice on such a matter. The teacher, however, has to sign a declaration that he has actually received the money, which has to be countersigned by the Trustees. The money he has not got, and cannot get it, but if he does not declare that he has received it, he cannot draw the salary. "If the people do not pay you your fees," says the paternal government, "you shall receive no salary from us." Some kind-hearted Trustee relieves him by the suggestion that this signing of a declaration is merely a form, and at the hint down goes the teacher's name, and the trustees follow. The teacher tells his conscience that he is not to blame. The money is earned. His work is completed, and the salary is his by the right of having done his duty. The fifty pounds should be paid, whether the twenty five is or not. The people promised him so much, they may not perform their duty; the government also promised, and he has a right to both or either. Such reasoning easily satisfies a man who has his half year's bills staring him in the face and demanding satisfaction.

The sum of twenty thousand was paid for the support of Parish Schools last year, that is by way of salaries to the teachers from the provincial chest. During the same time the amount paid by the people directly to the teachers is set down as over twenty-six thousand pounds. The teachers in this branch of the service do not require to sign any declaration, but the trustees have to certify that there has been a *bona fide* payment of a sum equivalent to that expected from the province funds, without which certificate the warrant for payment cannot be issued. The trustees in general know nothing about what has been paid, but certify blindfolded, expecting that