

STARVE THE SCHOOLS, STARVE THE PEOPLE.

If the people will starve the schools the schools may retaliate by letting the people starve, mentally, then morally, and in a measure materially also. Once I saw a field, of which the owner, a wise man, said: "I let the crop take care of itself; and in three years there were only two small heads of wheat among the weeds." Sir John B. Lawes further expressed to me at the same time the opinion that if the plants which furnish human food should be all left without human care and culture for fourteen years, there would be hardly any of the cultivated plants fit for food. For even the bare maintenance of human life there is need for practical education; and for the maintenance of all our institutions and means of culture, there is need for practical education.

What better use can be made of money than to keep up good schools? Taxation among a free people is everybody chipping in to do what no one could do alone, but which all can do together with great benefit to each. Such taxation increases the value of property; and more than that, it enlarges the capacity of the people to manage and to enjoy life. It is just as essential in the long run that the people should support the schools willingly as that their children should attend them.

SALARIES MUST GO UP.

Salaries for teachers will have to go up or the people will go down. I do not see any escape from that conclusion. It is well that there is none, because there is no better investment for wealth or public taxes than to pay somebody for doing the best work for the nation's most precious assets, its children and its schools. Many capable men are not attracted to teach because the profession has so few prizes. The bank has a good many managers; a youth may hope to become one. In commerce he may win a prize, but the prizes for the ordinary school teacher are few, and are not large. There are not many positions in the whole educational sphere where the salary more than yields a bare living. It would be a good thing to pay some of your best men, good, attractive, alluring salaries, to induce young men to go into this profession.