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Editorial

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

The full report of the Commission on Teachers' Salaries has not come to hand but the general drift of the recommendations made may be gathered from what appeared in the press. It was unanimously agreed that salaries are too low. A minimum and maximum wage was not definitely stated though a suggestion was made. The decision was that a permanent Board of Adjustment should be named to deal with the problem. Some people will say the Commission decided nothing and others will say it "passed the buck." Others will say it has got together much good material. Possibly this getting together of information was the chief work the commission was expected to do. It is for those who pay salaries and those who receive them to be guided by the information which is furnished in such reports as this.

The Journal has never been in full sympathy with the thought that the salary problem will be settled when a satisfactory minimum and a satisfactory schedule of increase are agreed upon. What will satisfy and what should satisfy teachers in Winnipeg, will not satisfy in points outside, where life has fewer attractions. A schedule cannot be expected to be the same throughout the province. Whether it be by way of schedule or otherwise, salaries must be so arranged (1) that a sufficient number of young people of the right type will set themselves apart for the work; (2) that they will find it advantageous

to take a generous training in both High school and Normal school; (3) that they will be encouraged to remain in the profession, and if possible, in the same school for a period of years; (4) that they may be able to retire at the end of their tenure of office with something saved for emergencies. This is the bread-and-butter side of the case only. If the schools are to be the agency through which our civilization is to be lifted from a lower to a higher plane, if they are to be the guarantee of peace and permanent welfare, then we must secure as teachers men and women of the highest refinement and culture—with high ideals of personal and civil duty. We are not now paying the price; we are as a nation spending our wealth for things that are unimportant, trivial, and secondary, and neglecting the things that make for eternity. It is only when our people get a right view as to the great issues of life that the teacher problem will be satisfactorily adjusted. In the meantime we can wrangle along and think we are doing a lot. We are working at the problem from the outside. Thank Heaven, there is some serious thinking going on to-day on this very matter. Out of it will come better days for teachers. More will be demanded of them. More will be done by them, and they will have recompense in return for their labor. But that day is not yet. It will come just as the general public become enlightened, and just in