

"some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them;" and if, as the residents of older cities often reminded us, Ottawa has had greatness thrust upon it by its having been made the capital of the Dominion, it has made a vigorous and successful effort to be worthy of that distinction; and it was one of the most hopeful signs of prosperity when our educational institutions flourish and multiply. The demand for trained and capable teachers for this part of the Province had been so steadily increasing, that it called for the establishment of a training school in this city. A manufacturing centre like Ottawa required not only a great deal of machinery, but establishments, also, for the special purpose of manufacturing machinery. So, too, having come to require a good deal of educational machinery, the time had arrived for us to have an establishment for producing that machinery; and now that we had the Normal School erected and equipped, he was sure we united in the hope that it might take as high rank, and do as valuable service as any of the Normal Schools of the country. But while the erection of the Normal School marked one stage of our progress in educational work, it might not be out of place, he thought, to express the hope that before many years another stage of that progress would be marked by the equipment of a college at which a thorough literary and scientific education could be had. A university might embrace and control a number of colleges; these colleges might be situated in different parts of the country, but so connected, and so governed by the central power of the university as that the examinations for degrees might be the same for all, and as men graduating at any one of these colleges would carry with him the stamp and recognition of the university. By such a system many young men living in the neighbourhood of any such college might avail themselves of the advantages it afforded them, though they might not be able to go away from home to pursue their studies; and so the benefits of higher education would be placed within the reach of a greater number. There were some who desired to see some such university system in Ontario, not confining to Toronto the expenditure of public money for higher education, but having several colleges throughout the Province, that would both rank beside University College, Toronto, doing similar work, and connected with it as integral parts of what might be the University of Ontario. If such a system were ever carried out, perhaps we might hope to have one of the colleges established in Ottawa. While we were extending our Normal School system, it would surely be wise, if not absolutely necessary to extend also our University system. It might, he thought, be fairly questioned whether the mere training of a Normal School was sufficient to produce a first-rate teacher without any University education. The art of teaching must, of course, be acquired, and for imparting that our Normal Schools were indispensable, but those teachers who had themselves enjoyed a university training would probably be the first to admit that, while they were chiefly indebted to the Normal School for their proficiency in the art of teaching, they are indebted to the University for the scholarship, the breadth of view, the balance of judgment, and the habit of clear thinking which were among the chief requisites of the successful educator. For the sake, therefore, of perfecting our teachers, as well as for the sake of placing within the reach of a larger number the facilities for obtaining a higher education, he hoped that we might at some future date rejoice at the opening in Ottawa of a college where a thorough literary and scientific training could be had, as we this day rejoiced at the opening of our Normal School. (Loud cheers.)

Rev. Mr. Dawson expressed his delight at being present on this occasion, and remarked upon the illustrious company in which he found himself, the gentlemen upon the platform being among the most distinguished in the Dominion of Canada. He spoke of his own interest in the cause, and the joy he felt at the expressions of deep and heartfelt solicitation on its behalf expressed by the gentlemen who had spoken, all of whom had it in their power to do so much for its advancement. We were advancing in material prosperity—and there was no man of observation who did not see that we were going forward in mighty strides, and while we were almost surpassing the older nations of the world, there were some of these unfortunately some of the greatest of them—engaged in the most miserable political quarrels, and in their damnable persecutions which ought to have passed away in this age. It was therefore a cause of true joy in addition that our public men were so thoroughly in earnest about the moral and intellectual improvement of the people. In many respects we were greater even than the ancient nations of illustrious history, and only a few years would elapse ere we should eclipse them in every way; this noble zeal in the cause of education would lift us beyond them all. So far as teachers were concerned, he deprecated the custom so prevalent of regarding them as mere servants—on a par with the man who dug your potatoes or held your plough—and he advocated the payment of such reasonable salaries to highly qualified teachers as would enable them to make and

maintain their proper rank in society. Let Canada be the first to award to the teacher and his profession, that high and honourable place which rightfully belongs to them. So long as people were ignorant themselves, so long would they continue to treat with indignant persons who are more enlightened than themselves—those who have to instruct and enlighten their children. (Hear Hear.) Let the people be educated, however, and this would be no longer possible. The coming generation was that to which we might reasonably look with hope, but even in the present day salaries might and ought to be increased, and much would thus be done to elevate the status of the teacher. (Cheers.)

Rev. Dr. Ryerson complimented the city of Ottawa upon the establishment and completion of the Normal School, which he had regarded as of the greatest importance to this part of the country, which was in many respects isolated, and connected with Eastern Canada more intimately, commercially and otherwise, than with the west. When called upon by Mr. Mackenzie to express an opinion upon the subject, although unwilling to add to the responsibility he was bearing, he was in favour of Ottawa as the first place where a school should be established. The prospects of success were much greater than he had anticipated, and he pointed out that while there were only 63 students entered the Toronto Normal School the first session, representing though it did the whole Province, there were already two-thirds of that number for this district alone. He dwelt with emphasis upon the necessity of having well-trained teachers, who were cheap at any price as compared to a poorly informed and untrained class. He touched upon the efforts he had made in establishing the existing system of education, asserting that he had learned some most useful lessons from the people and educational system of Holland. He remarked that New York State, which had three millions and over of a population, had now nine Normal Schools, although it was behind Ontario in establishing the first one; and Pennsylvania had twelve. We ought to have six in Ontario if we maintained the proportion. He also recounted the number in several other States of the Union. He advocated the addition of a Model School to the Normal School here, at the expense of the city of Ottawa, at whose door he contended that duty properly lay. The Normal School accommodation of the Province was only for 300, which he held to be altogether too little for the population, and felt sure the Government must be impelled to build more schools in view of these facts. He advocated the erection, by local authorities generally, of Model Schools, and expressed himself gratified by the offer made by the Collegiate Institute Trustees and the Central School East, of their willingness to give facilities for having a model class in connection with their operations for the benefit of Normal School students. He complimented Ottawa upon the high standing of all the teachers engaged in its schools of every grade, and he was especially glad that in the matter of salaries we were ahead of Toronto, for good salaries would always bring the best of men. He remarked that he was now in the seventy-third year of his age, and had been for nearly thirty-seven of these at the head of the educational affairs of the Province. Mistakes he no doubt had made, as who that was human did not, but this he was able to assert without fear of successful contradiction, that he had sought the good of his country with all his heart, and had endeavoured to do his duty honestly and fairly, without respect to denomination. The time had arrived that some other arrangement should be made, and Parliamentary responsibility established in connection with the administration of the Department. He could scarcely be expected to speak on the subject without emotion, but the course was one he had long favoured. He had made the proposal in 1868 to the late Sandfield Macdonald, who did not favour it, and again to the new government in 1872. Since then he had never ceased to urge it. Speaking as he did entirely free from party predilection, he was able to say that he was heartily glad that the Hon. Mr. Crooks had been selected for the position. A scholar and a Canadian, there was no one in Upper Canada better adapted to the position than was he. All the influence of which he (Dr. Ryerson) was possessed would be exercised in his behalf. He wished him God speed in the mission confided to him, and whatever time might be allotted to him (Dr. Ryerson) here below would be devoted to the hon. gentleman's service. He had the most perfect faith in our educational future, and he believed we should soon stand in the front rank of the civilized countries of North America.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor then said: I now declare that the Normal School of Ottawa is open from this time forth, and from my heart I wish it all success and prosperity.

Mayor Featherston proposed a vote of thanks to the Lieut.-Governor, The Hon. Messrs. Mowat, Mackenzie and Crooks, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson and the other gentlemen who had taken part in the proceedings, and he took the opportunity to say that Ottawa had