

## EDUCATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL CONDITIONS

An Address at Charlottetown, P.E.I.,  
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by  
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EXTRACT:- (Page 5)

Sympathetic Teachers

We need teachers who are in sympathy with rural life. How often I have seen teachers so intent upon having children pass examinations on formal subjects that they did not know anything of the locality or of the people in it. The teacher needs to be in sympathy with the people and to have a knowledge of their conditions.

Teachers need those qualifications for effective leadership, leadership in the school's campaign against ignorance and vice and selfishness and disease, and all ill-wills howsoever begotten. They require scholarship in the subjects and questions vital to the people of the locality. They should be close to them in sympathy and in the character of their intelligence, although in advance as to extent and range of it. Perhaps you remember how one of my American friends characterized a would-be leader who was out of sympathy with his longed-for but not laboured-for followers. "He was so high up in his own esteem that he had an enthusiastic following of only his own atmosphere." There is need for teachers being close to the people, that they may lead the people up and on through the children and otherwise also. The kind of teachers we require are those who are born into sympathy with the people's needs and trained into ability to meet them.