

a new plan in their methods of handling some subject before a class, only to find themselves after a few attempts in a worse position than they were before.

What has ever been done by any of our Associations to bring prominently before us any feasible scheme for our mutual benefit and protection -- a scheme strictly under our own control, and absolutely free from Departmental and Inspectorial supervision?

What we need as a body is some such organization as the "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers," or the "Knights of Labour," with its superannuation fund, insurance fund, sick benefit fund, etc., -- an organization that will have sufficient strength and influence to determine who shall and who shall not be members of the profession.

We need such control of the avenues into our profession as is possessed by the clergy, the bar and the medical profession. We should be in a position to secure for ourselves a fixed tenure of office, more liberty of action in conducting our schools, better remuneration for our services, some means of crushing out the present suicidal competition for situations, more control over the courses of study prescribed for the pupils, some remedy for the undue influence now exercised over us by officials of various sorts and degrees, which influence is not always exercised for the best interests of the teacher and the pupils.

Some among us may perchance feel

somewhat alarmed at what may appear very radical, but I leave it to the calm and sober judgment of my brother and sister teachers to say honestly that if the course advocated but imperfectly here has been of so much benefit to others, why would it not be as beneficial to us?

Why, I ask, should some teachers be permanent officers and others birds of passage? Why should some of us be in the enjoyment of all the good things of this life, and others, equally able and willing, have to be content with an uncertain and bare existence? Is not our educational machinery too expensive for so young a country? Could we not do as well, yea, better, if we had less red-tape, fewer officials, fewer examinations, fewer examiners? Is there any real necessity for two High School Inspectors in this Province of railroads? Would not the examinations for the lower grades of certificates give a better opportunity for recruits to acquire skill and experience if held biennially, instead of annually as at present? Would not some of the money saved by some such curtailing be better expended upon the schools, thus enabling trustees to pay better salaries and secure better teachers? These are some of the many important matters affecting our profession which a powerful organization, such as we can have and should have, were we only true to ourselves, to our profession and to our country, would speedily attend to and settle upon a permanent and satisfactory basis.

THE earliest known lens is one made of rock crystal, unearthed by Layard at Nineveh. This lens, whose age is to be measured by thousands of years, lies in the British Museum, with surfaces as bright as when it

left its maker's hands, while, exhibited in the same place, may be seen other lenses of comparatively recent date, whose surfaces are entirely destroyed by London smoke.