

it is a plant of forced growth that contrasts very sharply with the one more carefully and naturally developed. In this way the conscientious, painstaking teacher is often sacrificed to over-anxiety on the part of those who grow impatient for results. A suggestion imported from the United States towards the consolidation of a part of all sections in a township and the formation of a central school under several teachers and the necessary conveyance of the lately been broached in this province. While there are some probable advantages to be urged in favor of the scheme, there are some serious objections to counterbalance them. The primary object of the change is supposed to be that of lessening the school expenses to the people, and it is also claimed that a graded school would be more thorough and efficient than an ungraded one.

Now the initial expense of erecting and furnishing a suitable building for a central school would certainly be considerable, and as the scheme is experimental in character it would not be wise to sell the discarded houses lest they be again required. But even more formidable than this would be cost of transportation of the children to and from the school at all seasons of the year.

As to the advantages of a graded school over an ungraded one, there is room for a difference of opinion in the matter. It is contended by educationists that the more individual teaching children can receive, up to a certain limit, the better, for simultaneous teaching too often degenerates into

machine work and cram. This sort may store the memory but does not develop the mental power—to do that, pupils require time to think, for which an ungraded school is best adapted.

But a strong objection to the proposed scheme is that it emphasizes unduly the commercial idea in education. One would expect such a scheme to originate in the United States. In this country the saving of money is not the paramount object of life and our people do not worship the almighty dollar to the same extent that our neighbors do. In fact the dollar is not almighty in Canada. We do not hear complaints on the score of burdensome taxation and yet most of our experienced teachers receive fair salaries. Our rate-payers in general never grudge a liberal expenditure for a good school.

The proposed scheme is expected to provide better salaries for fewer teachers, and to that extent it will not be a saving in expenditure over the present system, and on the other hand, limiting the demand for teachers, will greatly increase the over-supply of which great complaint is made in some parts of the province.

It appears to me that there will probably be little use made of the permissive legislation on the question lately passed in Toronto.

—Picton Gazette.

It may be said that while in one sense the year 1901 has been in some respects the most unfavorable the mining industry of British Columbia has ever experienced, it has also been the best. Progress of a very substantial character has been made. The test has been a hard