

sociation was formed, and a Bill was prepared giving to you the right that every other school section in the province has, in the only way in which such right can be exercised in a large city. The bill to confer this right—a right that is enjoyed in Great Britain, the United States, and Ontario—was condemned by a large majority of the City Council, and chiefly on that plea, was rejected or postponed by the Local Legislature. On you, therefore, is now thrown the duty of saying distinctly whether you are satisfied with the present system or not? In previously advocating the bill, we rested our case on Constitutional grounds; being unwilling to raise irritating questions, or to make pointed allusions to inefficient Schools, Commissioners, and Teachers. We had sufficient confidence in the people to desire that the whole case should be left in their own hands. We believed that you, both as parents and taxpayers, had a better right to elect the trustees of your own schools than the Local Government or the City Council had to do it for you, and that no one owing his own position to popular election would venture to question this. We were mistaken. It is therefore necessary now to go more into detail, and to specify some of the evils in connection with the administration of our schools that must be remedied, and the very existence of which proves that the system on which the present Board is constituted is hopelessly bad.

We direct attention to the following facts:—

1. The expenditure last year for the support of our Public Schools amounted to \$66,205.00, but the present condition of one class of schools is so unsatisfactory that many rate-payers, amongst the most heavily taxed, are compelled to educate their own children in Private Schools.

2. According to the Inspector's Report, there is "something radically defective in the present management of some of the largest graded schools in Halifax." He states that he has laid before the Board "indubitable evidence" of this, and yet the Board, keeping all knowledge of the facts to itself, pleads that there is no cause whatever for the present agitation.

3. When vacancies occur in the teaching staff, instead of advertisements being inserted in the newspapers to attract teachers from all quarters, the appointments are made by private patronage, although it is well-known that so great is the desire to come to the city that every vacancy could be filled up from the best teachers in the Province.

4. The expense is increasing year by year out of all proportion to the increased

number of pupils, or the efficiency of the schools.

5. Some of the schools are in a disgraceful condition even as regards order and discipline; in others "grading is ignored;" and the standard in most of the schools is extremely low, notwithstanding the report of the supervisor that the average attendance is very much higher than in the country, the great and acknowledged drawback to efficiency thus not existing in the city.

6. In schools with even 12 or 13 departments, the Principal is completely unable to exercise any intelligent supervision over the whole school, because his time is confined to his own department. He is thus only a nominal Principal, and present supervision is a mere sham.

7. The ratepayers of Halifax, though heavily taxed for education, are at a great disadvantage, as compared with other sections of the Province, such as Pictou and Yarmouth, in having no high school. There is therefore no link between our common schools and colleges, and thus the chief stimulus to higher education is wanting.

8. While the law provides that the Commissioners in the city of Halifax are to discharge all the duties of Trustees, and the provisions of the General School Law require Trustees to provide free of charge high school departments, the Board has made no such provision, and has pleaded that there is no law empowering it to do so.

9. That denomination which in its recent Pastoral has declared its settled policy to be adverse to the principle of free unsectarian public schools, is, nevertheless, the only religious body having clerical representation upon our School Board.

10. Several schools supported by the city enjoy special religious privileges, and are for all practical purposes Roman Catholic Institutions. Similar privileges have not been accorded to any Protestant body, though application has been made for them.

11. The appointment of Teachers to one class of schools is, it is well understood, absolutely in the hands of the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church, and, as if that were not enough, at the same time the Chairman of the Committee for appointing Teachers to the only schools available for Protestant pupils, is the Roman Catholic Vicar-General.

12. Three-fifths in number of the First-class male teachers in Halifax at present receiving salaries of \$500 and upwards each, and which, under the resolutions of the Board are to be increased by forty dollars annually until they reach seven hundred dollars, are found in the schools especially designed for Roman Catholic pupils,