

many instances, find themselves loaded with increased responsibility, but yet in the receipt of smaller incomes than they had when occupying much lower positions. The same may be said of the assistant teachers. Consequently a very large proportion of those occupied in one of the most important branches of the Public Service are toiling under a sense of hardship, and, to some extent, injustice. But of this more anon. What we wish now specially to press upon the notice of the Minister of Public Instruction is the cruel position of the first-class pupil teachers. When the schools were carried on under the former system of staffing, these teachers were supposed to be only doing subordinate work, while pursuing their studies for the teaching profession, and their salaries were fixed accordingly, whereas they now do the responsible work cast upon them through the reductions made in the assistant staff. Thus they are practically assistant teachers, though still called pupil teachers. Many of them have matriculated at the University of Melbourne, have passed all examinations demanded of them by the Department, and have been engaged in teaching for five and six years, and still their salaries are only £40 a year for females and £50 per annum for males. We have been in schools where classes of from fifty to eighty children were being taught—and well taught, too—by first-class pupil teachers without any assistance whatever, or at most, the occasional help of a child out of the sixth class. Considering the strain on the mind of a young teacher thus placed, to demand such arduous labor for the miserable pittance mentioned is "sweating" of the most aggravated character. We feel sure that the generous nature of the Minister of Education would not tolerate this state of things for a day were it not for the depleted state of

the public Treasury. But the worst rut in the road of depression has been passed, and we appeal to that honorable gentleman and to the official head of the Department to speedily devise means for giving relief to this most worthy section of the State teaching staff. This could be done very readily by giving the first class pupil teachers an increment or a result percentage payment, similar to that made to the head masters and assistant teachers. Were the whole facts of the case submitted by the Minister to Parliament, he would have little difficulty in obtaining an amendment of the Act that would meet the case of those sweated pupil teachers."

The revelations of the *Montreal Herald*, in regard to the condition of some of the schools of the Province of Quebec, have attracted the attention of the whole Dominion, and something must be done by the people of that section of Canada to remove the reproach of having a machinery so poorly equipped for the education of the coming generation. These revelations show how much worse the condition of the teacher is in Quebec than even in retrograding Melbourne. Forty or fifty pounds a year, even for teaching eighty pupils, will seem a large emolument to the schoolmarms who are working for from seven to eight dollars a month in many of the school municipalities of the Dominion, and we trust that irrespective of the seeming nonsettlement of the Manitoba School Question, no one will think of encouraging a continuance of the present state of affairs, far less a retrograde movement. We know it will be said that an increase of salary to the teacher will not make a more efficient teacher of him, but will a higher salary not encourage many to prepare themselves thoroughly for that occupation when the fiat goes forth that every teacher