

generally what it ought to be, but if the profession itself were elevated more in the persons of those who followed it, better salaries would follow, and could be insisted upon. He recited some very interesting experiences of Mr. Horace Mann in regard to the schools of Massachusetts, which went to show that the greater the ignorance of the people and the school trustees, the less respect was paid and the less encouragement offered to a really competent teacher. It was the interest of parents and instructors alike to elevate the standing of the teaching profession and to make it an occupation that would be at once honourable and remunerative, and the best way to forward this object was to increase as far as practicable the means of imparting a higher education. He felt grateful as a citizen of Ottawa that such means had been afforded to the people of this section of Ontario, and he trusted the same privilege would soon be extended to the other portions to which references had been made. He believed that on the education of the people depended in a large measure the greatness of a country in a mercantile and commercial respect. In proportion as our educational institutions are sustained, so, he contended, will our political institutions be perfected, and good and equitable Government ensured. He had taken great pride and pains to point out to the people of Great Britain, during his recent visit, what he regarded as the superiority of our system of education, and how peculiarly gratified he was that the system was harmoniously carried out as between all classes and creeds of our population. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Hon. Mr. Mowat said he had attended the meeting more with the intention of being a listener and a witness of the proceedings than of making a speech. His desire was more especially that his friend and colleague, Mr. Crooks, should say whatever it was fitting should be said on the part of the Government, inasmuch as it was extremely likely that he would be our first Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario. (Loud Cheers.) It was probably well known that the propriety of having a member of the Administration at the head of the Education Department instead of a Chief Superintendent outside of the Government, was a subject which had occupied public attention occasionally for some time, and the Chief Superintendent, under whose fostering care our educational system had been for the last thirty or forty years, had expressed himself very strongly in its favour. The opportunity would soon be offered him of having it tried and tested. As there were in other countries Ministers of Education, it was probably but right that we should have one in Ontario. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Mowat) rejoiced to find himself in accord with his predecessors in the Government of Ontario in regard to this matter of the Ottawa Normal School. He entirely agreed with the opinion expressed by Mr. Mackenzie that additional Normal Schools were necessary, and that Ottawa was the place where it was appropriate the first movement in that direction should be inaugurated. As Ontario was the leading Province in the Dominion, it was only fitting that she should take a leading stand in regard to education. Than the subject of education there was none to which our public men could with better advantage give their attention, and none in which he personally felt a greater interest. The time was fortunately long past when it was necessary to press the advantages of education upon the people of Upper Canada, nor was it necessary to tell them that the perfection of our system was an object to which all their energies should be bent. He dwelt with great emphasis upon the happiness and concord, and all the other blessings which flow from the existence amongst the people of sound information and broad views, which could only be imparted by a system of public instruction which includes all, and he also pointed out how close the connection between a sufficient supply of institutions for the training of teachers and the success of education. A considerable number of Normal Schools were in operation in several countries in Europe, and in the United States they were very plentiful. In the latter, indeed, the number of them was very much greater in proportion to the population than in Ontario, and the schools themselves were generally, in all essential elements, found to be most flourishing and progressive. He happened to be present at the opening of the Normal School at Toronto in 1847, and he remembered the Chief Superintendent upon that occasion pointed out that we were ahead of the State of New York in that respect. Now, he (Mr. Mowat) was sorry to say we were very much behind that State, and it was because he did not intend this state of things should continue, that he had determined this Normal School should be proceeded with. He had experienced considerable difficulty, he said, in getting the Legislature to agree to the appropriation, and he recounted the already well-known steps which were taken by the opponents of the Government to defeat the scheme. The fact that Ottawa was the Capital of the Dominion made it of the utmost importance that the people should be well forward in the matter of education, but he would also be frank enough to state, while aware of the good school accommodation afforded in the city, and the high standing of the city schools and

teachers, that the most pressing reason was the too wide existence of an opposite state of things in some of the country districts. He had been informed only this morning that in ten years this eastern district had sent but twenty successful students to the Toronto Normal School. He was afraid that in many cases the schools, school-houses and teachers were not exactly what they ought to be, but he hoped this fault would soon be remedied. He remarked that in outward appearance and internal arrangement the Ottawa building was far superior to that of Toronto, and he was glad to know that as many as thirty-eight matriculants had already passed the entrance examination—a number which would very probably be added to in the near future. He would look to the success of the institution with considerable interest, and he hoped every effort would be made to second the efforts of the Government in that direction. He was glad to know there was such an interest felt in our schools in this Province, and he regarded it as the most hopeful proof of the depth and sincerity of that interest that the ratepayers were willing to submit to such heavy taxation on its account. He remarked upon the vastly greater amount of money contributed towards educational purposes from local taxation than was spent by the Government in that way, and he asserted it was positively the best investment which it was possible for them to make, not only as to its direct returns, but in its prospective advantages. After a few other remarks in a similar spirit, the hon. gentleman retired amid loud applause.

Hon. Mr. Crooks said he scarcely expected to receive upon this occasion the announcement that upon his shoulders would be placed the responsibility of a department which had been for so many years presided over by the respected Chief Superintendent. He had attended chiefly for the purpose of expressing in his own person how much the progress of the people of Ottawa was watched and made a matter of regard by the Government of Ontario. It was the fact that this city had looked more to the Federal than the Provincial Government as to the source of its advancement and prosperity, but he desired to remind them that there were interests affecting them very closely which were within the jurisdiction of the Local Administration and Legislature. Of these interests, education was one, and the lumber trade another, both of them of very great importance to the city of Ottawa. He reminded them of the impetus which had been afforded to the latter by the policy inaugurated by the present Government, the effects of which had been felt from the Ottawa to the Detroit River. He spoke in enthusiastic terms of the prominent position our system of education had attained, and eulogized Dr. Ryerson in that connection. Only recently, he remarked, the United States were looked to for an educational model, but latterly the Canadian system was more highly regarded, and we had placed ourselves in a position to show an example of a character even better adapted to the necessities of a country than the States. Ours had many features borrowed from the American system, indeed, it seemed to be a combination of the experience of all other countries. We had at last found a system national in its characteristics, and yet depending upon the voluntary action of the taxpayers. We had also been able to overcome those difficulties as between denominations, which had caused so many heart burnings in other places. To show how popular our system of education is, he stated that the rate-payers tax themselves at the rate of \$3,000,000 per annum, while the Government contributed only about one tithe of that amount, or some \$300,000. He insisted upon the necessity which existed for raising the standard of the profession, and the increase of salaries of teachers; as well as the establishment of other than the existing schools for their training. He remarked upon the effects of public school education on the people, and gave the success of Scotchmen in business and other circles, arising from their parochial schools, and the triumph of the Germans in their war with France, as very striking evidence of the fact. Education was one of those things in which there was no resting point, but progress must be continually going on. Teaching was like anything else, it required an apprenticeship on the part of him who would make it his profession. The Normal School was the place where the apprenticeship must be served, and it had been clearly shewn that the establishment at Toronto was insufficient for the requirements of the country. There could not be a higher duty than that of the teacher, upon whose exertions and capacity the future of the youth of the country depended, and in whose hands to all intents and purposes the fate of the nation was thrown. (Cheers.)

The Rev. D. M. Gordon said he willingly acceded to the request of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, to take part in this meeting, not because he had anything of interest or importance to say, but because, in common with his fellow-citizens, he rejoiced at the opening of a Normal School in Ottawa. There were many proofs of the prosperity and progress of our city; but perhaps in no respect had that progress been more marked during the past eight years than in the matter of education. If cities were like individuals, in that