

Taxation for Education Produces Wealth.

The total amount paid in Canada for the education of all of the 890,000 children in the rural districts is just about \$8,500,000 a year, or the amount which the wise and worthy people of that little kingdom obtained as a premium for superior quality in three products exported to Great Britain. Denmark is now one of the wealthiest nations in Europe in proportion to area and population, excelling in agriculture even England herself. From among the poorest thirty-five years ago to the wealthiest in agriculture to-day is a praiseworthy achievement. The transformation was accomplished largely by the practical agricultural education I have outlined, the improvement of rural schools and the development of co-operation. The people as a whole were interested and enthusiastic in their support of the movement. I found one clergyman who had a class of girls coming to his house to learn cooking and good housekeeping from his wife. Let us together work out our own salvation was the call and the action of the whole nation, and money was ungrudgingly spent on education.

Would you like to advocate increased local taxation for schools at the risk of upholding an unpopular cause? When a man seeks public office, too often he endeavours to get in by advocating lower taxation. What is taxation? Taxation under our institutions of government of the people, by the people, for the people? Everybody chipping in to do for each and for all what could not be done so well or could not be done at all by individual action alone. We cannot have better schools without better teachers; we cannot have better teachers in rural schools without better salaries; and we cannot have better salaries unless the people tax themselves. There is high public spirit in paying taxes for schools. 'Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ,'—and (may I add?) of Christian civilization. If we refuse to uphold taxation to the extent of the community's needs and of our ability to pay, we are getting away from the first principles of Christianity. Taxes for schools must go up or we, as a