

four hundred dollars will be accepted from Trustees, when six or seven hundred can be made in some mercantile pursuit. This is the explanation of the paucity of male teachers of the higher grades in our Public Schools. A large number pass a successful examination each year, and are open to engagements; but will not teach for the low salaries offered. Hence the Educational interests of certain sections suffer, particularly such as require instruction in branches which many of our best female teachers are not prepared to give; as Navigation, and other advanced studies.

As already intimated, the remedy for this, as our School Law now stands, is with the Trustees, or, in case of failure on their part, with rate-payers themselves, who, seeing the necessity of employing higher class male teachers, can make provision for them at their annual meeting, and, having made the necessary provision, should insist upon having such teachers employed. By the Education Act as amended, Grade B. teachers, having taught with any grade of license for a period of five years, are to have a yearly bonus of \$30. To a certain, but very limited extent, this is a remedy for the evil complained of; but unless Trustees supplement it with \$30 or \$40 in addition, the bonus from the Government will, it is to be feared, fail to effect a continuance of first class men in our Public Schools. The necessity of securing a due proportion of first-class male teachers, has not infrequently suggested the desirability of some modification of the scale of salaries, by which to such teachers, both the Government Grant and the County appropriation might be relatively increased; the importance of the end to be gained is of sufficient value to demand for the suggestion a careful consideration. Were the County School tax, which at present is thirty cents, increased to forty cents, the money accruing from this would enable the Commissioners to pay an increased salary to first-class male teachers, whilst, at the same time, so small an advance in the County tax would be scarcely felt by any one.

I would not be misunderstood, whilst pressing the necessity of efforts to secure the services of male teachers of the higher grades. It is not that I underrate our female teachers; grades C. and D., taken on an average, cannot, I believe, be surpassed by any teachers within reach of trustees, with the means at their disposal. At this present time, they are evidently doing a very large share of the educational work of this Province. Patiently and perseveringly they discharge their onerous duties with a conscientious fidelity worthy of all praise. The following extract from the Report of the Superintendent of Education for British Columbia, will, no doubt, convey the sentiments of a large number of experienced educationists in our own Province:—