

personal knowledge of the conditions surrounding our country schools; and from his mistaken efforts to do good, trouble has come. Steps should at once be taken to make the Committee more representative of the real interests to be administered. This was one of the points very forcibly made a few years ago by the Hon. Mr. Weir and the Government and the English-speaking communities of the province will yet have to recognize its wisdom. The school interests of Montreal, Quebec and Sherbrooke are governed by special bodies under particular charters, and the Protestant Committee has really little or nothing to do with them.

The existing scarcity of teachers supplies a strong illustration of the lack of interest or sympathy of the Protestant Committee with rural education. It was its duty to have carefully watched the result of its legislation, limiting the supply of teachers to one institution; but it passed the regulation, and then apparently thought no more of it, until a cry of distress has gone up from the rural population. A careful supervision would have shewn a prudent administrative body that the diminishing number of teachers in training, in the McGill Normal school, could not supply the demands of our schools, especially when the supply was being drawn upon by the North-West, and the ranks of the female teachers are being decimated by marriage and by the attractive salaries offered in commercial life. Even now, when this vital question has been brought before it by one of its rural members, the matter received a very unsympathetic hearing and was unceremoniously adjourned for three months. It is imperatively the duty of the Government to see that our schools have sympathetic administrators. The present agglomeration has failed to satisfy the public.

The Committee has failed in due respect of public opinion, and also in its appreciation of the relative importance of the interests confided to its care. The Protestant population of this province feels that the first rank must be given to the care of our elementary schools. The Committee has antagonized the sentiment by a general negligence of the subject; by legislating so that it is difficult to obtain teachers for our elementary schools; by its opposition to the marriage license fund going to the schools of