

In the most civilized countries of Europe permanence in teachers and school officers is more recognized than in the newer countries of America, but it is a lesson that we are learning somewhat slowly, but none the less surely; and even in the United States a strong and successful movement has begun to divorce education from politics, and until this is done entirely teaching will never reach the dignity of a profession. Short tenure of office in one locality, and the regarding of the work of teaching as a stepping-stone to something else, is the bane of educational work in Canada; and if this be true of teachers, how much more so would it hold regarding those who sit at the helm. A steady, consistent and progressive administration is necessary in educational affairs above all others.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

(Continued from August REVIEW.)

In no sense are they (Teachers' Associations) supposed to be to be unions for the purpose of coercing the ratepayers into paying higher salaries, but by this agency it is hoped that a more just appreciation of the work of the teacher will be had, and to this end all the trustees and parents should be invited and induced to belong.

Meetings should be held at intervals of a month in different parts of the parish, and in addition to the subject of child study, such topics as regularity of attendance, interest of parents, importance of forming habits and character, and the co-operation of parents to that end should be discussed. Professional etiquette and courtesy should also be a feature of the discussions; and this, if properly undertaken, will do more to raise salaries than any other means.

Public meetings should be held at intervals in different parts of each parish, and the same means taken to keep alive an active interest in education, that at the present time is being taken to awaken interest in Sunday schools, temperance, agriculture, etc. "In union there is strength." If the country teachers unite they will begin to appreciate their power and not until then. One of the greatest drawbacks of the teachers, compared with other professions, is that they have no union among them. Doctors and lawyers, by strict organization, can influence legislation in any reasonable direction. Why should not the teachers do likewise? They can if they go about it in the proper way, and they will be only on the right road when they begin to induce the politicians to take notice of them. If the teachers in any province are united and enjoy the confidence, as they must, of their employers they can influence legislation in every legitimate way. And there are many desirable ends to be accomplished—

superannuation, minimum salaries, compulsory education, and others might be mentioned.

The towns have not set the example of union, so let the country districts begin the work. It is somewhat remarkable that a city of the size of St. John has no Teachers' Association—no reading room, no library, and no organization whatever, notwithstanding some very strenuous efforts in that direction. We thus hear, without any united protest from the teachers, of deduction of pay for days lost by sickness, and other restrictive measures. A gentleman remarked some time ago that "if the teachers of St. John were thoroughly united they could largely influence civic politics." And so they could with the influences at their command.

What is true of St. John is, in so far as I know true of Fredericton, Moncton, St. Stephen, Woodstock and other towns of the province.

I noticed in the hands of a pupil in the State of Maine some time ago a small card having on one side in large print:

"Stand and sit erect.
Move promptly and quietly.
Speak distinctly and gently.
Study more than text-books.
Master what you study.
Be courteous and thoughtful.
Be diligent and trustworthy.
Make the most of the best in you."

On the reverse side, in smaller print, the following:

..... Me., 189....

Will you read or repeat what is on the reverse side of this card once each day? Will you make an earnest effort to do the things there mentioned better than you did them last term? I am sure that you will be greatly benefitted if you try to improve in these several ways. I am equally certain that you will always remember with pleasure every effort you make to do more and live better than you did yesterday. These requests and suggestions are made by your Superintendent.

.....
And your teacher.

.....
All good teachers look upon the formation of habits as the most essential part of their work but many fail to impress them systematically. This little card brings directly to the attention of the pupils in a simple form many of the most important habits necessary to his own conduct as well as to the government of the school. With a little care and without additional work to the teacher it insures system and affords a text for constant reference to position, carriage, study, thoroughness, courtesy, thoughtfulness, diligence and trustworthiness. The last admonition will not be understood by pupils without enlargement on the part of the teacher.