

the brightest boy naturally in his class, makes "no show" at the teacher's examinations. It would be well to *remember sometimes* that it is easier to examine than to be examined.

The school-law provides that, in case the regulations made by the commissioners for the management of any school are not agreeable to any number whatever of the ratepayers who profess a faith different from that of the majority, these ratepayers can dissent and establish a school for themselves. While I regard this provision as possibly the fairest that could be devised under the circumstances, still I am bound to admit—and I speak simply for this district, and not for the province generally—that the consequent separation works injuriously in certain instances. If a school district composed of Roman Catholics and Protestants, with just a sufficient revenue for its work, is brought under this provision of the law, it is obviously impossible that efficient teachers can be procured for the small salaries that will be available under the circumstances. It is my opinion, derived from a practical operation of the law, that such a separation should not be allowed in poor and weak school districts.

The religious exercises in such mixed schools could be conducted at fixed hours—at the close, as a rule—so that dissenting children need not attend. This is the practice in several cantons of Switzerland, where the conditions are similar to our own in this province.

I make this suggestion in all sincerity, and under the conviction that it is in the interest of elementary education.

In some remote settlements it is absolutely impossible for small children to attend school in mid-winter, owing to the snow-drifted roads. Permission should be given commissioners in such localities to keep their schools in operation during the month of February in each year.

The weak and remote schools continue to make but slow progress, and so it must be until larger inducements can be offered to capable teachers. Experience tells me that where there are well-paid instructors there is educational development.

I noticed a statement some time ago, that it is the intention of the Protestant Committee to devote special attention to our elementary schools, and offer rewards to the most deserving among them; but, while approving of any plan that gives to the best-organized schools, who are doing good work, I fear that the one in question may not do justice to those small schools in remote and poor districts, which are doing their best, while laboring under great disadvantages, compared with those in rich and populous settlements.

Such schools are, in their way, deserving of every encouragement, and should not be placed at a disadvantage in any system of rewards that may be devised with the praiseworthy object of encouraging elementary education.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to refer to another matter of personal interest. In your last annual report you had the goodness