

THE STATE SHOULD EDUCATE.

Among other good reasons why organized society, acting by its regularly constituted governments, should support and direct a system of education, one may think it is done and must be done in order that everyone may have a fair opportunity to develop or acquire:

- 1st. Power and desire to earn an honest living by honest work;
- 2nd. Self-restraint, in order not to use power at the expense of, or to the injury of, others;
- 3rd. An understanding of the meaning and duties of citizenship in a free country;
- 4th. Talent and determination to give one's country the best service through work of which one is capable; and
- 5th. Capacity, willingness, and energy to co-operate with one's fellows for the public good.

If the state did not provide schools for those purposes, provision for them might not be made at all, for the protection of the body politic and for the advantage of the body politic.

In Canada education receives fair recognition, so far as expenditure goes, at the hands of the governments. The governments of the various provinces pay grants to public schools ranging from nine to thirty-nine per cent. of their total revenues. The thirty-nine per cent., which a year ago was true of Prince Edward Island, does not indicate any more generous support of schools than the nine per cent. of another province, but only that the schools in the Island province are supported chiefly from the provincial treasury rather than by the local taxation. The amount of expenditure is not the only evidence of the relative importance of education as a public activity. As the old earth rolls into the sunlight every morning, from the Atlantic to the Pacific children troop to school, travelling in all sorts of ways. One in every five of all the people either attends school or teaches in school. Although statistics for the last few years are not at my hand, one may say that in round figures a million and a quarter of children hurry or loiter to school, and over 30,000 teachers spend their days in teaching them.