

there are teachers to-day, who speak only broken English, and who are totally unfit to do their work properly. The French trustees are satisfied with any teacher, provided he or she is Roman Catholic and French. They refuse to employ properly qualified English-speaking, Protestant teachers. They want a teacher who will specialize on French, and who will teach the Roman Catholic catechism, and open and close the school with Roman Catholic prayers. In all the public schools of Prescott and Russell, where the French have control, no English-speaking teacher, no Protestant, need apply. A couple of years ago, a fiat went forth from the Whitney Government that all public school and separate school teachers must be properly qualified. District certificates and permits were to be as worthless as brown paper. But this declaration, which filled the breasts of nuns, and Christian Brothers and illiterate French teachers with alarm and dismay, has never been enforced. The great scarcity of teachers has been the excuse for a laissez-faire policy. But is there any decent excuse for the lamentable lack of qualified teachers in Prescott and Russell counties?

In 1893 the Ross commissioners saw signs of improvement; they prophesied that the model school of Plantaganet would turn out efficient teachers; they predicted that in time all would be well. But what is the present condition? If there has been any improvement in the teaching standard in sixteen years it has been very slight, and there is still crying need for reform. The following figures for 1906, compiled by W. J. Summerby, public school inspec-