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The Educational System of British Columbia— A Viewpoint

ARTICLE I.

[By C. N. Haney, M. A.]

(In writing this article I must not be understood as reflecting on the work of the past nor on the present Superintendent of Education for whose work I have a hearty appreciation. Above all I do not wish to make the subject a political football. I offer my ideas freely for approval, criticism, supplement or amendment, in the hope that those interested will give the situation serious and efficient consideration whereby the way will be opened to a proper systemization of our educational efforts and the correction of those present faults which may be shown to exist. I appeal to all interested in education, particularly those fortunate enough to have had University training).

In dealing with our educational system in British Columbia I hardly need to state that like others in Canada it has not resulted from any scientific study of our wants and requirements, but is the outcome of the individual efforts of those who now and heretofore have interested themselves in the subject of education. Topsy-like, "it has growed" and we owe its excellencies to the accident of circumstance rather than to careful, thoughtful planning. All honour to those who amid the stern duties of pioneering, responded to the call of something higher than the material needs of their daily life. They have done well and deserve our heartiest thanks. That they did not better was no doubt due to their life conditions.

Now, however, that, in part at least, our pioneer days are gone and we have in some respects "arrived," is it not time that we gave our educational system some of the careful attention we are devoting to Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, Mining, and other less important matters? Does it not stand in need of revision? Can we not improve it if not mould it according to permanent principles?

In my opinion, it needs revision from two view points: (1) the administrative and (2) the aim or ideal. Let us consider these seriatim: