

the administration of school affairs, ought by this time to be able to crawl out of our shells and look beyond the boundaries of our own districts and see that we are depending on a few of the larger towns, in which High Schools are situated, to pay the lion's share of the cost of providing the teaching staff for the whole province. You can also see, if you give a moment's thought to the situation, that its continuation must result in a demand for the raising of the tuition fees which, in turn, will throw the burden of expense on the individual, and if it is raised to the individual, he is not going to shoulder it. The consequence will be a shortage of teachers and a consequent lowering of the standard of education. Any one can see that the rural districts will be the first to suffer in this case, not only from having a poorly educated class of people on the land, but also because our best families will move to town or probably leave the province altogether. It is unthinkable that we should come to the place where we will have to depend on the outside world to furnish us with elementary teachers and, I may say here, that the districts that have tried the experiment for the past year or so have not been entirely satisfied with it.

At the Provincial Convention last spring we passed a resolution recommending largely increased grants to High Schools, but the government in turn says, "Tell us where to get the money to pay those grants; you have already taken away from us about three or four hundred thousand dollars we used to get from the liquor licenses. Tell us how you want us to raise the money for these grants."

Resolutions have been introduced in the Winnipeg Convention, recommending that the province be blocked into High School districts, with a special taxation for the support of High Schools. This was not acceptable. Another, asking for a small levy on all the assessable land in the province, was introduced. This also was turned down. Then when the provincial treasurer

sought to make a levy on some of the institutions in Winnipeg who, he had good reason to know, were escaping their just share of the cost of the upkeep of our public utilities, he was assailed by a body of men who posed as the representatives of agriculture, but who were at the same time busily engaged creating another monster, which they hoped to be able to steer as clear as possible from the shoals of taxation. So we go on demanding impossibilities from the men we elect to represent us. Things have changed since the days of old Pharaoh. In his day the government demanded that the people produce bricks without straw, while in our day the case is reversed.

Another problem we have to face is that of the re-arrangement of our units of administration. This will come to us in the form of one of the resolutions coming down from Beulah. I have no desire to forestall any discussion that may come up on this subject, but will take the liberty here to suggest that we are willing to take a municipality as a unit as already provided by the statutes. Then we will have less difficulty in coming to a conclusion.

I would like to draw your attention to another question that will not down. It is that of the teachers' retirement fund. We are already a long way behind the rest of the civilized world in this matter. It comes to us, not from the young girl who expects to spend only two or three years in the profession, and in her migrations from one district to another eventually expects to land permanently in a home of her own in one of them. No, the demand comes from those who have already given the greater portion of their lives to the children of this province, and who expect in return that the province they have served so faithfully and so long will co-operate with the school boards and the members of their profession to create a fund that would at least be some guarantee against actual want in their declining years. Without committing ourselves to details we might put ourselves on record as favoring some such plan.