

under control." Professor Goldwin Smith also points out what is very true that in the city quite the opposite of this is the case. The schools are hardly common, the Voluntary being frequently preferred by those who can afford it. Besides the financial obligations which must be undertaken by those who establish the Voluntary Schools will retard their growth in sections where they are likely to hinder the work of the existing common school. The economic fly wheel of "demand and supply" must regulate the establishment of these schools. They cannot possibly be of mushroom growth, but will adapt themselves here and there as they may appear necessary and where they can be worked in harmony, or affiliation with the existing system.

Mr. Grant seems unduly afraid of ecclesiastical domination; but if this is a real danger it can be adequately guarded against. The fact that the scheme contemplates that these Voluntary Schools would come under the management of a board of trustees elected by the parents who send their children to the school precludes any possibility of ecclesiastical domination. Besides the "continual bickering" of which Mr. Grant has visions in regard to the history of English education, can be explained to some extent, it seems to me, in the possible want of proportion there in the number of Voluntary Schools compared with the number of board schools. This lack of proportion is understood when we recall the fact that it is now not many years ago since the Voluntary Schools had complete possession of the country. The board schools have

been grafted on to that system, and while the latter have grown in numbers chiefly in cities and towns the financial burden to the taxpayer makes it somewhat difficult for the board school to obtain a foothold in the villages and rural districts. The "bickerings" then arise chiefly because there is no board (common) school, not because there is a Voluntary School. Work the two in harmony; but be careful first to establish a common (board) school, and all "bickering" should cease. In Ontario the common (board) schools are already well established throughout the length and breadth of the province; Voluntary Schools will very likely only be established in cities or towns where their presence cannot possibly injure the common school, on the contrary they should create a healthy rivalry, and the experiment prove of great benefit to our national education.

Mr. Harcourt's opposition to the bill introduced by Mr. Hill, of West York, at the last session of the Legislature, providing alone for inspection of Voluntary Schools, seemed to be very feeble. Feeble because he had to go outside the bill to find objections, and did not deal with the bill on its own merits. The bill did not provide and no one asked for any financial aid. This alone formed the grounds for the Minister of Education's objections to the bill. Surely financial aid may or may not be given, quite apart from inspection. In Germany, for instance, inspection is compulsory in all private schools in all the States, while financial aid is given only in a limited number of States. The question of inspection can and