

sympathy of enough rate-payers to carry the election of the good cause, when, on the day of the annual meeting of the ratepayers, a vote would be taken on the motion made for the adoption of the mid-summer vacation system. The strongly prejudiced men would be as carefully avoided as an unchangeable Liberal is shunned by a Conservative candidate. But the summer vacation plan had a better fate than the Conservative principles had at the last election.

All the French schools with perhaps a rare exception, of which I am not certain, have adopted the summer vacation option. And good results are the consequence. The average attendance is not lessened ; the children return to school with renewed vigor, and satisfied that they have had enough play,

My experience has shown me that, when children are in school during the summer heat, they acquire a lazy and listless disposition, which cannot be shaken before the Christmas festivities bring them to their senses.

As long as the option remains on our school statutes this vexatious question will be a source of annoyance. And the Government, which is supposed to do the will of the people in this democratic age, cannot very easily compel the people to adopt a system which, optionally, they may choose for themselves. Though the notion of Spring and Fall vacations is antiquated and certainly useless, the people of many country districts will cling to the old ways.

It is only by agitating the question of reform in this matter that the Acadian schools have succeeded in removing the old prejudice. But this must be done peaceably, and the teachers must not be selfish. Many people will imagine that the teachers are looking forward to summer vacations for a good time and summer sports, whereas their very limited means are unquestionable evidence against such a charge. With persistent zeal a teacher can accomplish a great deal in a district where his work is appreciated. Any teacher, whose standing is good in his district, should be able to influence the ratepayers to the extent of granting midsummer vacations.

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